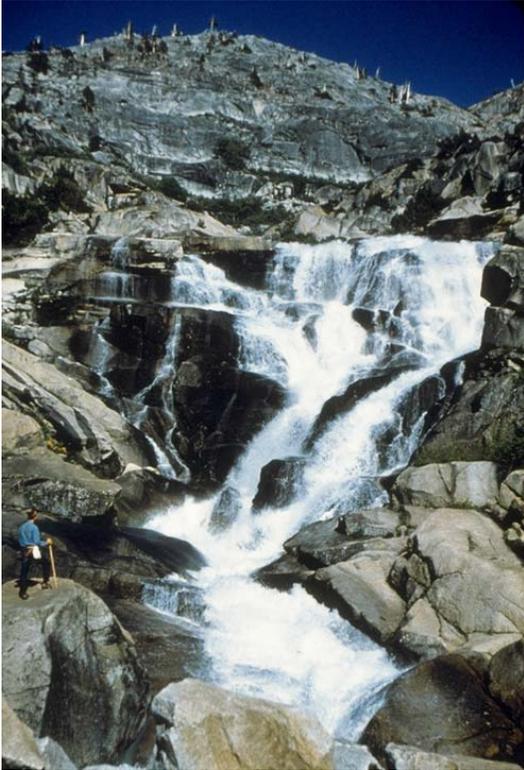
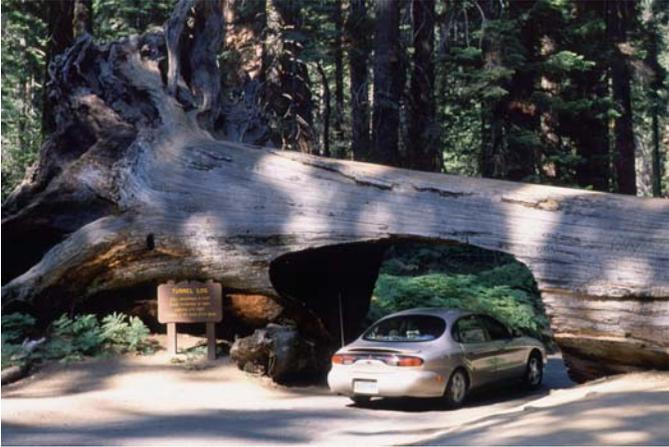


Alternatives, Including the Preferred
Alternative



Introduction

PUBLIC SCOPING AND MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Before any alternatives were developed, information was gathered on park resources, applicable mandates and laws, visitor use, and preferences. Some of this information was shared with the public in project newsletters. The purpose of public involvement is to help shape the range of alternatives, which was done through public scoping meetings, a Planning Workbook (Newsletter 4), and alternatives workshops. The resultant ideas defined the extent of differences in alternatives and helped to set up a range of three distinct alternatives — an alternative that would emphasize natural ecosystems and biodiversity, an alternative that would preserve traditional character and retain the feel of yesteryear, and an alternative that would adapt to changing user groups. Each of these alternatives, as well as the alternative to continue current management (the no-action alternative), would support the parks' purpose and significance, address issues of concern, avoid unacceptable resource impacts, meet the parks' long-term goals, and respond to differing public wishes or concerns.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

The preferred alternative was developed following an initial assessment of the impacts of the preliminary alternatives. A decision-making process known as "Choosing by Advantages" (CBA) was used to bring maximum value to the process while making cost-effective decisions that would benefit national parks and the nation. Nineteen factors were assessed, and the results of the CBA process are included in appendix F. The preferred alternative was selected for two major reasons: (1) it would bring additional benefits to the parks, and (2) it would be more cost-effective than the alternative that was

initially ranked highest in the CBA process. Benefits related to resource protection from other alternatives were added to the preferred alternative.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

Management prescriptions are the heart of the general management plan. The prescriptions guide the achievement of desired future conditions for both resources and visitor experiences, and they are applied to specific areas or zones, which would differ by alternative. Alternatives and management prescriptions were first presented in Newsletter 5 (winter 2000). As the planning process evolved, changes were made to both the prescriptions and the alternative actions.

AN ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED

The alternative that was considered but rejected was a public suggestion to remove all development from the parks (including roads) and to ask people to hike into the parks. While the intent of the suggestion may have been to protect resources, this alternative would not meet the NPS mandate to both preserve resources and provide for public enjoyment. Only visitors physically capable of a strenuous hiking experience could enjoy the parks. Cultural resources, particularly those highly valued facilities related to early NPS rustic architecture and the CCC (the Generals Highway and related facilities) would be removed, as would all park and concession facilities. This would be a loss of public and private funds that have been spent to provide enjoyment for park visitors. This alternative would not meet NPS *Management Policies* or any of the six goals of the National Environmental Policy Act. Consequently, it was rejected.

Management Prescriptions

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This section describes desired resource conditions, visitor experiences, appropriate activities, and appropriate facilities for each management prescription. Numerous elements are common to all prescriptions. The management prescriptions presented below have been simplified and consolidated compared to those presented in Newsletter 5.

For the frontcountry there are four prescriptions — *low-use frontcountry*, *high-use frontcountry*, *park development* (including villages, campgrounds with amenities, park operations, and residential), and *high-use scenic driving*.

For the backcountry there are three prescriptions — *major trails*, *secondary trails*, and *cross-country areas*.

Carrying Capacity

General management plans are required to identify and implement visitor carrying capacities for all areas of a park. The National Park Service defines visitor carrying capacity as the type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining desired park resource conditions and visitor experiences consistent with the purposes of the park. At the general management plan level of decision-making, management prescriptions establish carrying capacities in terms of the desired resource conditions and visitor opportunities in both frontcountry and backcountry management zones.

Frontcountry Carrying Capacity

Frontcountry visitation levels that are being considered under the alternatives analyzed in this document can generally be accommodated without adverse resource impacts, as described in the section entitled “Major Decisions to be

Made” (page 32). Therefore, carrying capacity can be dealt with primarily as a seasonal visitor experience issue. Vehicular and pedestrian congestion is a problem during the peak summer season at Lodgepole and Grant Grove Village, as well as at popular features such as the General Grant Tree, the General Sherman Tree, and Moro Rock. Villages, which would be within the development zone, are likely to remain congested during the peak season since they provide visitor services; however, the management prescriptions describe appropriate facilities to confine or control impacts of visitor use.

Crowding begins to adversely affect visitor enjoyment at popular park features when approximately 450–500 people visit the Grant Tree, 400–450 people visit the Sherman Tree, and 125–150 people visit Moro Rock. Ranges for perceived crowding would also be developed for other popular visitor destinations. At destinations and features within either the high-use frontcountry zone or the high-use scenic driving zone a multi-faceted approach would be used to manage carrying capacity:

- When conditions were perceived as crowded at popular destinations during current peak use periods, based on visual monitoring, visitors would be redirected to less crowded locations by using communication between onsite staff, transit providers, and traveler information systems (such as park radio announcements and real-time information signs).
- Redesigned and new facilities, as well as restored areas, would accommodate sustainable levels of visitation. For example, crowded conditions in the Grant Grove area could be addressed by redesigning the entrance station, village roads, intersections, and parking so that these facilities could better accommodate sustainable visitation levels. Traffic to Hume Lake could be redirected so that it did not

contribute to congestion in Grant Grove Village.

- Providing transit access to popular sites would help disperse use at peak times. Ongoing transit planning would explore ways to reduce traffic, crowding, and dispersion of visitors. For example, restoration efforts in the Giant Forest area have set a direction for carrying capacity for that sequoia grove. The primary means of access in the peak season is by transit. Also, hundreds of structures have been removed, large areas restored, and visitor services relocated to more sustainable locations. At the Sherman Tree transit services would provide the primary means of visitor access. The area has been redesigned and restored, and visitor parking has been relocated, with the 0.5-mile trail from the parking area designed to improve visitor experiences. Access to Moro Rock would be by foot, bicycle, or transit during the peak season.
- In-park media, including information at trail centers and museums, would encourage visitors to hike between transit stops in order to disperse use and improve visitor experiences.
- Various orientation and information approaches would describe less crowded times to visit the parks.

Low-use frontcountry areas have the capacity to absorb more visitation. Numbers of parking spaces or campsites adequately control carrying capacity; parking or camping in undesignated areas is not allowed.

Backcountry Carrying Capacity

Three types of management zones in the backcountry provide for different types of visitor experiences and describe the desired condition of natural and cultural resources. The parks have long regulated backcountry use, and permits are issued based on regular monitoring intended to ensure that desired visitor experiences are maintained and that carrying capacities are not

exceeded. Implementation plans, like the *Backcountry Management Plan* and the *Stock Use and Meadows Management Plan*, detail measures to monitor resource conditions throughout the backcountry. Various indicators, such as research plots, have been established to monitor the condition of natural and cultural resources to ensure their protection. Indicators might include trampling of riparian communities, degraded water quality, noise, number of human encounters, presence of trails created by visitors, trail deterioration, an increase in incidental business permits, or inspection reports related to cultural resources. The range of management actions that might be undertaken in response to changes from the desired conditions or experiences include area closures, restrictions on type of use, designated campsites, education (especially “leave-no-trace” ethics), and management of incidental business permits.

Applying Management Prescriptions

Management prescriptions are applied to geographic areas, which are referred to as zones. The sizes of zones vary by alternative, depending on the vision for each alternative. Management prescriptions generally illustrate carrying capacity at a level appropriate for a conceptual general management plan. Some decisions about the way in which management prescriptions would be implemented, however, are left to the alternatives. These include stock use, the amount of additional wilderness, and backcountry commercial use. For example, alternative A has no stock use, alternative C broadens stock use but imposes limits on group size, and alternative D concentrates use but allows larger groups. The vision for alternative A states that more wilderness would be compatible under this alternative than under either alternative C or D. Also, the appropriateness of new activities is discussed in the alternatives.

Zone Boundaries

A natural boundary, such as a stream, a road, a natural feature, or a wilderness boundary, is

often used to naturally delineate zones. The zones shown on maps of the alternatives are representative and are not drawn to scale. Future implementation plans will select specific sites, provide designs, and meet any additional requirements for compliance with environmental and historic preservation laws and regulations.

Land Suitable for Development

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks contain a great deal of steep terrain, and most of the buildable terrain near roads has already been developed. A Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to define future potential development areas. Slopes of 15% or less are considered suitable for development, even if in the past structures were built on slopes up to 30% or more. Not all areas within the development zone can or will be built on because of the need to protect resources.

ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL PRESCRIPTIONS

Sequoia Groves

The giant sequoia groves — particularly Giant Forest — and the ecosystems they occupy are restored, maintained, and protected. This includes reintroducing and managing natural processes such as frequent low to moderate intensity surface fires and native forest insect outbreaks to preserve the groves' ecological integrity. Ground and surface water conditions are also significant to the reproduction and maintenance of the sequoia resource and would be managed to protect grove hydrology.

River Protection Measures

Wild and scenic river resources and outstandingly remarkable values for designated and eligible rivers would be protected in the parks through a number of measures and management tools.

- Rivers in frontcountry areas are classified as “recreational” and are protected by seasonal closures; zoning; limiting areas of development; managing overnight use by limiting the number of developed campsites, parking spaces, and lodging rooms; establishing development setbacks; removing facilities within floodplains; managing river-based recreation; defining river access points; prohibiting motorized watercraft; and regular inspection of the condition of resources, including the river’s outstandingly remarkable values. As a mitigating measure, riverbanks would be restored as needed. The capacity of roads providing access to recreational rivers is not expected to increase.
- Rivers in less accessible backcountry or wilderness areas are classified as “wild” and are protected by zone prescriptions, permits, overnight wilderness quotas, restrictions on stock party sizes, restrictions on use areas, riverbank restoration, and area closures. As a mitigating measure, riverbanks would be restored as needed.

For rivers that are being considered for designation as wild and scenic rivers, no actions may be taken that could adversely affect the values that qualify a river for the national wild and scenic rivers system.

Hydroelectric impoundments and diversions on the Marble and Middle Forks of the Kaweah River, and on the tributaries of the East Fork, are on sections being studied for inclusion in the wild and scenic rivers system. It has been determined that the magnitude of impacts resulting from these relatively small-scale facilities does not preclude the inclusion of these river segments in the wild and scenic rivers system, since even with these facilities the waterways remain “generally natural and riverine in appearance” (*Federal Register* 47, no. 173: 39458).

The management plans for the designated river segments do not specify detailed actions, but do prescribe desired conditions, typical visitor activities and experiences, and park facilities and

management activities allowed in the river corridors based on management zoning. Through management zoning the outstandingly remarkable values of the river corridor are protected and enhanced.

Light Pollution

The night sky or natural dark is protected from light pollution, which obscures the visibility of stars and other celestial bodies. The parks' *Exterior Lighting Design Concepts* recommend techniques to provide safety while reducing light pollution. These include keeping illumination to the minimum necessary, using lights that provide accurate color rendition, directing light down, and screening fixtures to reduce glare. Emergency lighting is to be kept to a minimum and placed on switches or motion detectors. This is in accordance with NPS policy.

Protection of Natural Sounds

Opportunities in the parks are preserved for visitors to enjoy natural sounds, including quiet. Visitors to the parks often seek escape from the sights and sounds of urban life. As visitors move away from developed areas and park features, they are more able to enjoy the natural sounds of water, wind, and wildlife. The parks continue to limit low-flying aircraft to avoid disturbing the natural setting. Additionally, all visitors are reminded that their actions can disturb others. Sounds caused by visitors can destroy the tranquillity that other visitors often seek.

Cultural Resources

Archeological resources, historic structures, and cultural landscapes are identified, evaluated, protected, and preserved unless it is determined through environmental analysis and consultations with the California state historic preservation officer, Native American tribes, and other parties that either disturbance is unavoidable or natural deterioration is appropriate. If resources must be disturbed, techniques to adequately

mitigate impacts are taken beforehand. The parks continue to consult with affiliated American Indian tribes to identify ethnographic resources in order to develop and accomplish programs in a way that respects the beliefs, traditions, and other cultural values of the Indians who have ancestral ties to park lands. No structure listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places are removed or allowed to decay naturally (molder) without prior review by park and NPS regional cultural resource specialists, including approval by the regional director and consultation with the California state historic preservation office. Before such a structure is removed or allowed to molder, appropriate documentation to record the structure is prepared in accordance with section 110(b) of the National Historic Preservation Act and submitted to the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), or the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) program.

Museum collections are acquired, accessioned and catalogued, preserved, protected, and made available for access and use according to NPS standards and guidelines.

Architectural and Site Character

Public facilities in all zones comply with the parks' guidelines for architectural design, lighting, and road character. The intent of the guidelines is to maintain rustic park architecture and character. Generally, operational areas are sited and screened by using natural features to minimize views by the public. Construction materials colored to merge with the natural landscape are also used.

Accessibility for All Visitors

New and remodeled federal and concessioner buildings and outdoor developed areas (e.g., campgrounds, trails, and park attractions) are made accessible to all visitors, including those with disabilities, at least to the extent required by federal standards. While NPS policy is to

maximize accessibility, it may not be possible to make a site like Moro Rock with its steep, winding staircase or a historic building with a narrow post and beam door opening accessible because the required changes would affect the integrity of the feature. When an important park experience cannot be readily made physically accessible, interpretive brochures, wayside exhibits, or programs may be provided to help convey the experience to visitors.

Sustainability

New, remodeled, and adaptively reused buildings and facilities, as well as adaptively reused historic facilities, reflect the National Park Service's commitment to energy and resource conservation by their energy efficiency and durability.

Commercial Services

In any zone where management prescriptions provide for visitor activities or facilities, such activities and facilities may be provided by authorized commercial services. Commercial services are offered in the parks to make available high-quality and safe visitor experiences while protecting and maintaining the desired resource conditions in each zone. Commercial activities would need to adhere to management prescriptions to provide the desired visitor experiences. Commercial services could include various types of lodging, camping, food service or restaurants, stores, public showers, laundry facilities, transportation, gas stations, stock rides (horses or mules), and pack stations. Before commercial services can be proposed or reauthorized within a park, they must be deemed "necessary and appropriate"; they must be financially feasible (that is, an operator has an opportunity to make a profit); and they cannot be services provided outside the parks. "Necessary" commercial services afford convenience to visitors and are generally a

considerable distance from similar facilities outside the parks. Commercial service plans are prepared to describe in detail the facilities and actions required to provide commercial services, and to achieve related visitor experience and resource protection goals.

Concession permits or incidental business permits also provide visitor services; they need only be "appropriate" in order to be authorized. Typically these permits are for guided backcountry activities, such as pack stock, cross-country skiing, or fishing trips. As such, concession permits are often regulated by backcountry permits; and no more than a certain percentage of backcountry permits should be set aside for commercial operators on weekends in order to give the general public access to park resources. Activities listed as appropriate in any zone are generally suitable for concession permits. However, commercial raft or nonmotorized watercraft use is not considered safe in rivers within the parks, so this type of business permit would not be authorized.

Utilities

Utilities are limited to those determined to be necessary and appropriate for each site. While most utility systems are in developed areas, utility systems and related corridors (sewer and water lines, radio repeaters, telephone lines, aerial or underground electrical lines, manholes, etc.) may be present in any management zone as a result of past management practices. The intent of park managers is to limit the number of such facilities and to minimize their impact. Services are to be provided in the most efficient and sustainable way possible, and future utility replacements, repairs, or new systems are to be located so as to minimize resource damage and to be inconspicuous. Related aboveground elements and access points are screened from visitors wherever possible. Electric powerlines and other utilities are placed underground whenever feasible.

FRONTCOUNTRY PRESCRIPTIONS

Low-Use Frontcountry Zone

Description. Low-use frontcountry areas are natural areas that provide resource-based experiences that are self-directed and include personal discovery and interaction. This zone may include Sierra Nevada foothills, montane forests, and subalpine areas. This zone is accessed by a system of trails and roads, and limited recreation facilities are provided.

Visitors are likely to encounter fewer people and more natural quiet than they would in the high-use frontcountry. Primitive campgrounds may be provided, as well as back roads valued because they closely follow natural terrain and provide rough and challenging driving experiences.

Examples: Backroads — Redwood Saddle and Mineral King; primitive campgrounds — Atwell Mill and South Fork campgrounds; low-use frontcountry areas — Mineral King.

Desired Natural Resource Condition. Natural resources may be minimally manipulated to accommodate facilities; however, the overall scale and extent of development and impacts are limited and less than what one would find in the high-use frontcountry. Resource impacts are confined to the immediate facility area.

Damaged areas and unplanned impacts (such as trails created by visitors) are restored or left to regenerate naturally.

Desired Cultural Resource Condition. Cultural resources are managed as discussed on page 55.

Desired Visitor Experience.

Roads — Motorists, bicyclists, or others can traverse low-speed, low-use, narrow back roads that follow the natural terrain. Constant alertness is required since roads may have many curves, steep grades, rough or rutted surfaces, and steep dropoffs. Some routes may be designated for nonmotorized use.

Trails — By taking trails that lead away from roads and visitor use areas, visitors

can experience greater solitude and take more responsibility for what they do. They are encouraged to stay on designated trails, which may be steep or rocky. Written information may be provided about trail character, conditions, and educational opportunities. Maps may be necessary.

Primitive Campgrounds — Campgrounds with minimal facilities provide a rustic experience; recreational vehicles or generators are not allowed.

Appropriate Activities. Activities include driving, sightseeing, hiking, camping, caving, rock climbing, water play, fishing, nonmotorized watercraft use, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bicycling, and stock use in designated areas. Snowmobiles are prohibited, except by permit along roads to access private residences.

Appropriate Facilities. Roads are often narrow (generally less than two lanes), one- or two-way, with paved and unpaved sections; often there are no shoulders or guard rails/walls and few passing pullouts. Back roads may be minimally altered for road safety. Parking areas may be paved, with edges defined by rocks and logs to confine impacts. Bicycle routes may be designated.

Ranger stations, visitor contact stations, entrance stations, corrals or pack stations, and historic roadside structures may be present, as well as park operational facilities (such as fire lookouts and utility systems). These facilities are generally small; operational facilities should be located out of sight from public roads, trails, and facilities.

Facilities for hiking may include narrow unpaved trails, trailheads, footbridges, and small directional signs at trail intersections. River access may be provided by way of marked and hardened trails, and signs to direct visitors to areas that can withstand use.

Primitive campgrounds provide less than 50 sites and do not offer full services (for example, no potable water, electricity, or RV dump stations). Restrooms may not be lighted.

Trailhead campsites for backpackers, walk-in campsites, and relatively remote bike-in, hike-in, or pack-in campsites may be provided. Stock campgrounds have hitching posts and turnaround space for horse trailers.

High-Use Frontcountry Zone

Description. High-use frontcountry areas are natural areas with trails, roads, or recreational and educational opportunities that draw many day visitors because of the quality of the resources and easy access. This zone may include Sierra Nevada foothills, montane forests, and subalpine areas. These areas are usually associated with road corridors. Park information systems encourage the use of various areas in this zone to disperse visitor use and to provide more focused experiences. Examples: Tokopah Falls trail (non-wilderness part), Big Stump, General Grant Tree, Moro Rock, Crystal Cave.

Desired Natural Resource Condition. Natural resources may be moderately to highly manipulated to accommodate facilities but generally appear natural. Development is larger and associated impacts more noticeable than in the low-use frontcountry. Resource impacts are confined to the immediate facility area; resources in and near high-use areas are likely to be protected by methods such as fencing or paved walks. Damaged areas and unplanned impacts (such as trails created by visitors) are restored or left to regenerate naturally.

Desired Cultural Resource Condition. Cultural resources are managed as discussed on page 55.

Desired Visitor Experience. At park attractions visitors can expect to encounter many people, but in a natural setting; traffic congestion may be common during the summer season. Interpretive information is available through waysides and brochures; scheduled naturalist activities are offered. During low-use times (e.g., early morning or evening) natural sounds may predominate.

Once people are about a half-mile away from trailheads on well-defined trails they have opportunities to experience more natural sounds and quiet, with decreasing sights and sounds of roads and other visitors. Visitors can easily follow trails and readily find information and written materials about trail conditions, experiences, and educational opportunities at trailheads and wayside exhibits.

Vistas may be marked to both guide visitors and prevent resource damage from trampling.

Appropriate Activities. Activities may include onsite programs, hiking, water play, fishing, caving, rock climbing, nonmotorized watercraft use, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and picnicking. Stock use and bicycling may be allowed in designated areas. Attractions have a sightseeing emphasis, and both self-guided and guided educational/interpretive programs are offered.

Appropriate Facilities. Access is by way of one- or two-way roads. Roads and parking areas are paved to reduce dust and to withstand higher use levels. To confine impacts, parking areas may have distinct edges created by using rocks and logs, or curbs and gutters. Bicycle routes may be designated.

At resource attractions educational and interpretive wayside facilities are likely to be provided. Historic, interpretive, or activity structures (e.g., the Giant Forest museum, trail centers / kiosks) may be present. Facilities may include wide paved walks that guide and direct visitors. Fencing or vegetation, boardwalks, and signs may be used to protect adjacent resources.

Other facilities include trailheads, highly maintained trails (paved and unpaved), directional signs at trail intersections, shuttle stops, museums, visitor centers, ranger stations, occasional essential staff residences, corrals or pack stations, picnic areas, restrooms, viewpoints, benches, and informal trailside seating (using natural materials such as logs and boulders). River access may be provided by way of marked

and hardened trails; fencing and signs may direct visitors to areas that can withstand use.

Park Development Zone

Park development includes four distinct functions — *villages* that offer a range of visitor services, *developed campgrounds with amenities*, *park operations* areas, and *residential* areas. The intent is to separate and confine these differing functions for reasons of aesthetics, efficiency, health, and safety.

Desired Natural Resource Condition. Development is larger and more extensive, and impacts are more noticeable, than in the high-use frontcountry. Natural resources within developed areas are likely to be moderately to highly manipulated to accommodate facilities. Adjacent natural resources appear unmanipulated in public parts of this zone; these resources are protected by means such as paved walks, fencing, boardwalks, and signs. Impacts may be widespread and long term, but most are reversible with major restoration efforts. Native plants are typically used in naturalistic landscape plantings. Areas with unplanned impacts (for example, trails created by visitors or staff) are actively restored to prevent further damage. Landscapes are actively maintained as necessary by methods such as restoration, replanting trampled vegetation, removing nonnative plants and hazardous trees.

Desired Cultural Resource Condition. Cultural resources are managed as discussed on page 55.

■ *Villages*

Description: Villages are areas that provide concentrated visitor services (e.g., visitor centers, lodging, restaurants and informal food service, stores, and equipment rentals). Their size and character may vary.

Examples: Wuksachi village, Grant Grove village, Cedar Grove village.

Desired Visitor Experience: Villages offer services and activities where large numbers

of people can be accommodated in what is perceived as a traditional national park setting. Visitors are likely to experience traffic congestion in the summer season. Informational, educational, recreational, and other services are provided, but services are limited to those determined to be necessary and appropriate for each site.

Appropriate Activities: Activities are principally related to meeting visitor needs (food, information, lodging, restrooms) and to providing services and educational opportunities that support the parks' purposes. Shopping opportunities may be provided. Visitors may also enjoy observing the adjacent natural scene.

Appropriate Facilities: Villages may offer a visitor center or nature center, a ranger station, amphitheaters, overnight accommodations (lodges; modern, rustic, or tent-top cabins), stores, restaurants, gas stations, stables, public showers and laundry facilities, a post office, and a variety of site furnishings (waysides, benches, signs, fencing, etc.).

Roads are paved, one- or two-way, generally with curbs and gutters. Some roads may be designated for service vehicles, pedestrians, or bicycling. Shuttle stops and parking areas are paved, with edges defined by rocks and logs, or curbs and gutters, to confine impacts. Roadside parking spaces may be provided.

River access may be provided by way of marked and hardened trails; fencing and signs may direct visitors to areas that can withstand use.

■ *Campgrounds with Amenities*

Description: Campgrounds with amenities are large frontcountry campgrounds, often near villages. Diverse camping opportunities are offered, including car or RV camping and various amenities. Some reserved sites and winter campsites may be available. Examples: Campgrounds at Cedar Grove, Grant Grove, Dorst, and Lodgepole.

Desired Visitor Experience: Campgrounds with amenities are larger and may be noisier than primitive campgrounds. Differing camping preferences may be accommodated — tent, group, family, and RV camping (generators may or may not be allowed). Visitors generally have direct access to their vehicles. Some walk-in sites may be provided at the edge of a campground for those seeking a different experience, or some areas may have early quiet time. Fees are higher than for primitive campgrounds, and there may be a check-in area and a campground host.

Evening programs may be provided, as well as day programs. Shuttle service may reduce the need to drive to park attractions or trailheads.

Appropriate Activities: Car, RV, bus, or bicycle camping. Recreational activities may include hiking, water play, fishing, and nonmotorized watercraft use.

Appropriate Facilities: Facilities include one- or two-way paved roads and parking areas, paved or unpaved trails, and campgrounds with up to 250 sites, possibly with separate RV areas, tent and group campsites, and an amphitheater. Each campsite has picnic tables and bear-proof food storage lockers. Some areas may have pull-through sites. Cold water, flush toilets, and bear-proof trash bins are provided at central locations. Public showers, laundry facilities, and RV dump stations may be nearby. Campgrounds may be on shuttle routes and have shuttle stops.

Trails within campgrounds may connect to villages or to local features, with directional information signs and interpretive waysides. River access may be provided by way of marked and hardened trails; fencing and signs may direct visitors to areas that can withstand use.

■ **Park Operations**

Description: Park operation areas generally have concentrated facilities for administra-

tion, maintenance, and utilities, and occasionally for visitor use. *Examples:* Ash Mountain headquarters area, Grant Grove maintenance area, Wolverton water treatment plant.

Desired Visitor Experience: This area is not intended for visitor use, but visitors who need to visit park administrative areas can easily find the facilities.

Appropriate Activities: Public business and park activities necessary to support park operations are appropriate.

Appropriate Facilities: Facilities include park administrative operations (e.g., offices, research, museum collections), maintenance operations (carpenter shop, vehicle service bays), utilities (including water, sewage treatment, and electric systems), firing ranges, emergency and helicopter areas, administrative corrals, and storage areas. Natural features or fencing may be used to screen these areas from public view.

Access is by paved, one- or two-lane roads designed to accommodate large trucks and equipment. Parking areas are paved; some areas have curbs and gutters to contain impacts.

Service access to river areas may be provided by way of hardened trails or roads.

■ **Residential Areas**

Description: Residential areas include seasonal or year-round housing for government, contractor, and concession staff, as well as privately owned or permitted recreational housing or inholdings. Private inholdings are subject to a land protection plan that may include scenic easements and historic maintenance agreements. Private dwellings may also be subject to special use permits. *Examples:* Inholdings with private recreational dwellings (Wilsonia, Silver City, Oriole Lake); permit cabins (Cabin Cove near Mineral King); employee housing at the Grant Grove or the upper Ash Mountain housing areas.

Additional Desired Resource Condition: Nonnative plant materials that are not invasive may be used in residential areas with the approval of the park superintendent. Invasive nonnative plant materials are removed. Natural resources may be used to screen residential areas from public view.

Desired Visitor and Residential Experience: Residential and employee recreation areas are separated from park operations to ensure safety, and they are separated from public use areas to preserve privacy. Land that is privately owned is further addressed the parks' *Land Protection Plan*. Permitted cabins are subject to the conditions of the permit.

Appropriate Activities: Residential, maintenance, and recreational activities are appropriate.

Appropriate Facilities: Facilities include private or permitted seasonal or year-round residences, parking areas, and utilities. Staff residential areas include housing, yards, garages, playgrounds, community buildings, recreational facilities, daycare, and school bus stops. Access is by two-lane or one-way roads.

High-Use Scenic Driving Zone

Description. High-use scenic driving corridors provide sightseeing opportunities in areas of natural beauty, offer scenic views, and connect heavily visited park features and visitor service areas. Roads are paved; they may be subject to winter closures. Example: Generals Highway.

Desired Natural Resource Condition. Natural resources in the road corridor are managed to accommodate facilities and the aesthetic experience, with vista clearing to maintain desired views. Construction-related impacts are confined to the corridor; impacted resources may be actively restored or left to regenerate naturally (for example, unwanted parking areas may be actively restored, and obstacles may be used to prevent further damage and misuse).

Desired Cultural Resource Condition. Original cultural resources related to historic road corridors are retained and reused, or they are removed or relocated. However, for safety reasons and because of changes in technology, construction methods, and current road standards, the original elements contributing to historic character may need to be replaced or relocated. Other cultural resource conditions are discussed on page 55.

Desired Visitor Experience. The goal is a safe and pleasant driving experience on a park road with rustic character and many opportunities to enjoy diverse scenery. Road character guidelines that were developed in 1990 for the Generals Highway are followed. Natural materials such as stone and wood are used to complement the rustic character, scale, texture, and colors of the original road work. Dry-laid stone walls, stone curbs, stone headwalls on culverts, stone-lined ditches, stone islands, stone drop inlets, wood fences, signs, and guardrails are used to define the character of roads, parking areas, and overlooks. Park roads are well maintained, with moderate speed limits (up to 45 mph). Traffic is generally free flowing, with slowing as a result of heavier traffic during peak midday times and for wildlife sightings. Vehicle sizes may be limited for safety, to facilitate traffic flow, or to improve the driving experience for other visitors. Advance notice is given about upcoming features, views, or services.

Appropriate Activities. Activities include pleasure driving, sightseeing (with opportunities to stop at viewpoints and features), bus touring, picnicking, and photography. Activities related to using transit shuttles, such as parking and queuing, may occur. Bicycling is only allowed on roads or designated bike routes.

Appropriate Facilities. Highways are paved, with two lanes, shoulders, turn lanes, roadside pullouts for passing, and guard rails/walls as necessary. Visitor facilities include entrance stations, viewpoints, interpretive waysides, picnic areas, ranger stations, trailheads, spur roads, parking areas, shuttle stops and related facilities, and site furnishings (e.g., seating and

signs); restrooms may be provided at picnic areas and trailheads. Curbs and gutters are used along high-use road segments (at parking areas and shuttle stops in developed areas, at viewpoints, and at heavily used trailheads) to guide use and contain impacts.

BACKCOUNTRY (AND WILDERNESS) PRESCRIPTIONS

Backcountry and Wilderness Experience: Backcountry areas (including designated wilderness, potential wilderness, areas managed as wilderness, and wilderness study areas) are natural areas — relatively remote, roadless portions of the parks, where permits are required for overnight use so as to maintain the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences. These areas may contain the full range of Sierra Nevada ecosystems — from foothills to alpine areas. Levels of backcountry use are intended to be much lower than in the frontcountry. Efforts are made to preserve a sense of remoteness and freedom from human-caused impacts. However, simple amenities (e.g., ranger stations, hitch rails, and campsites) are present to support administrative activities, reduce or control resource impacts, or provide for research and monitoring. Sensitive or damaged areas may be closed to protect resources. Bicycles are prohibited. Bear-proof food canisters may be required in some areas. High Sierra camps, which provide overnight accommodation and overnight shelters, are allowed in backcountry areas, but not in designated wilderness.

Major Trails

Description. Major trails are high standard, regularly maintained, long-distance trails that access remote natural areas. They accommodate day use, are generally accessed from front-country trailheads, and are suitable for sustained heavy use. More evidence of human activity is likely to be closer to the beginning of trails, where use is higher. Visitors may have to use designated campsites in some areas. Examples:

Pacific Crest Trail, John Muir Trail, High Sierra Trail, Rae Lakes Loop (Mist Falls/Paradise Valley), Mineral King lake basins.

Desired Natural Resource Conditions. Natural resources are mostly undisturbed. Impacts are restricted to trails and campsites, facilities, and attractions near the trails. Impacts are reversible, but it may take many years for natural resource regeneration. The goal is to restore disturbed areas, including visitor-created trails.

Desired Cultural Resource Condition. Cultural resources present along trail corridors are managed as discussed on page 55.

Desired Visitor Experience. While day hikers may use trails closer to trailheads, most users are overnight visitors. On the more popular trails there is a moderate to high probability of encountering others, particularly at campsites and attractions. Visitors have opportunities for a wide range of experiences, with some opportunities for solitude and isolation from the sights, sounds, or evidence of other users. Travel is generally along remote but regularly maintained trails that require a moderate degree of outdoor skills and self-reliance. Party sizes may be larger than those allowed on secondary trails or in cross-country areas. Visitors may have to use designated, established campsites in some popular areas.

Appropriate Activities. Activities include hiking, backpacking, fishing, rock climbing, nonmotorized watercraft use, and winter uses (cross-country skiing and snowshoeing). Stock use may be permitted, with restrictions on stock party size and the location and timing of use.

Appropriate Facilities. Facilities may include maintained trails, bridges, directional and/or mileage signs, rustic high Sierra camp facilities (not allowed in designated wilderness), staffed backcountry ranger stations, and research/monitoring facilities. If campsites are designated, they may contain facilities such as toilets, food storage lockers, and fire rings. There may be spur trails with facilities on them. If stock use is allowed, trails and bridges are designed and

maintained to stock standards, and appropriate facilities (such as campsites, hitch rails, and drift fences) may be provided.

Secondary Trails

Description. Secondary trails access even more remote natural areas than major trails and generally cannot sustain heavy use because of the standard of construction or inherent fragility of the resource through which they pass.

Examples: Colby Pass–Kern Kaweah, Tehipite to the Pacific Crest Trail, Martha Lake north to the Pacific Crest Trail.

Desired Natural Resource Conditions. Natural resources are mostly undisturbed. Impacts are generally confined to the immediate area of trails. Damaged areas and unplanned impacts (such as trails created by visitors) are restored or left to regenerate naturally.

Desired Cultural Resource Condition. Cultural resources present along trail corridors are managed as discussed on page 55.

Desired Visitor Experience. Visitors are generally overnight users. Use is lower than on major trails, and there is less probability of visitors encountering others while hiking and camping. Party sizes may be smaller than along major trail corridors. Visitors need self-reliance and outdoor skills. Food canisters may be required.

Appropriate Activities. Activities include hiking, backpacking, fishing, rock climbing, nonmotorized watercraft use, and winter uses (cross-country skiing and snowshoeing). Stock use may be permitted on trails that can sustain use without significant resource damage.

Appropriate Facilities. Facilities include minimally maintained trails. Some research, monitoring, and communications facilities may be present. Bridges, ranger stations, and designated campsites are seldom provided, except to protect resources or to provide for visitor safety. Occasional signs and trail guides

may also be provided to protect resources and to increase visitor safety.

Cross-Country Areas

Description. Cross-country areas are mostly remote, low-use areas where self-sustaining natural systems function largely untouched by humans. This zone may include the full range of Sierra Nevada ecosystems — from foothills to alpine areas. This zone has no maintained trails, but may contain evidence of past trails; otherwise they exhibit relatively little human-caused impact. These areas are more difficult to travel in than areas with maintained trails. **Examples:** Rock Creek–Miter Basin, Dumbbell Basin.

Desired Natural Resource Conditions. Natural resources are largely undisturbed, with wild and naturally functioning ecosystems. Evidence of past use may be actively removed to reduce resource damage (e.g., restoring previously disturbed areas, or eliminating visitor-created trails and campsites) or left to regenerate naturally.

Desired Cultural Resource Condition. Cultural resources that are present in the backcountry are managed as discussed on page 55.

Desired Visitor Experience. Visitors are generally overnight users, and most need to commit a minimum of two nights to use these areas. Visitation is very low, with a low probability of encounters with other users while hiking and camping. Party sizes are generally small. Visitors may experience challenges and must be self-reliant. Food canisters should be carried. Visitors need a high degree of backcountry skills, including map reading and orienteering.

Appropriate Activities. Activities include hiking, backpacking, fishing, rock climbing, nonmotorized watercraft use, and winter uses (cross-country skiing and snowshoeing). Stock use may be permitted.

Appropriate Facilities. Some research, monitoring, and communications facilities may be present. Visitor facilities are not provided.

The Management Alternatives

This section presents the range of alternatives that are being considered for the general management plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Each alternative is structured around a series of visions. There is a vision for the parks as a whole, and then for specific areas within the parks. The visions focus on what the parks and individual areas should be like at some time in the future, and they are worded in the present tense. After the visions, specific actions that would be taken under each alternative to achieve that vision are presented in a table. All of the alternatives were developed on the assumption that certain mitigating actions would be incorporated into the proposed actions in order to reduce the degree of adverse impacts. These mitigating measures are described beginning on page 72.

Many elements and prescriptions in the general management plan are also integral to the comprehensive river management plan for wild and scenic rivers. These include management prescriptions and zoning, river protection measures, the backcountry use quota system, stock use limits, prescriptions relating to campground and lodging locations and sizing, carrying capacity limits, and natural and cultural resource requirements. The section of the alternatives matrix that relates specifically to wild and scenic rivers (boundaries, classifications, and outstandingly remarkable values) begins on page 90.

The presentation of alternatives differs from that in Newsletter 5 in that the continuation of current management (referred to as the no-action alternative), which was originally presented as alternative B, is now presented first as a baseline for comparing the impacts of the other alternatives. The preferred alternative, which was developed based on a preliminary analysis of impacts, is presented second. The other alternatives that were included in Newsletter 5 are then presented. As described in the newsletter, alternative A

would emphasize natural ecosystems and biodiversity, with reduced use and development; alternative C would preserve traditional character and retain the feel of yesteryear, with guided growth; and alternative D would preserve the basic character and adapt to changing user groups.

As the planning team began refining the alternatives in Newsletter 5, it was clear that additional actions were needed to more clearly illustrate the intent of each alternative. Also, actions related to special use permit cabins at Mineral King were revised. The addition of the Dillonwood area to Sequoia National Park necessitated the creation of alternatives for this area, and the establishment of Giant Sequoia National Monument resulted in other revisions.

As previously described, benefits related to resource protection from other alternatives were added to the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative was selected for two major reasons: (1) it would bring additional benefits to the parks, and (2) it would be the most cost-effective.

DEFINITIONS OF PARK CHARACTER

The range of alternatives was developed with public input, and many members of the public valued what they called the character of the park. However, different views of character were described. To explain the alternatives, words that describe park character need further definition. Both titles and park visions for several alternatives use “basic,” “traditional,” and “rustic” to describe park character.

- *Basic* refers to activities that are well-established and common, such as hiking, camping, stock use, fishing, cave tours, water play, winter recreation (snow play, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing), and recreational scenic driving.
- *Traditional* refers to the historical use patterns from the 1920s to the 1960s. Visitors

used private vehicles in the parks and stayed for longer periods of time. Typical visitors were small family groups or backpackers of similar age. Backcountry use and stock use were much more popular. During that period private recreational communities developed in and around the parks, providing escape from the Central Valley's summer heat.

- *Rustic* refers to the nature of the built environment, with its handcrafted feel and its relationship to the surrounding environment. At Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, rustic architectural character is **common to all alternatives** and is supported by *Architectural Character Guidelines* (NPS 1989a) and *Road Character Guidelines* (NPS 1990). Because developed areas are very small under any alternative, the natural environment predominates over the rustic character of the parks.

VISIONS FOR THE ALTERNATIVES

Continue Current Management (No-Action Alternative)

Parkwide

The parks are managed as they are now in accordance with approved plans (such as development concept plans, and the 1996 *Giant Forest Interim Management Plan*); negative resource impacts and visitor demands are responded to by relocating development, reducing some uses, or confining new developed areas. Visitor uses are reassessed and revised as new information about natural and cultural resource impacts and visitor needs emerges. Current facilities are inadequate for park needs and visitor use levels, and crowding is common in some areas.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

National wild and scenic rivers are preserved in free-flowing condition, and they and their

immediate environments are protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. In managing these rivers, emphasis is given to protecting and enhancing the outstandingly remarkable values of each river segment, including aesthetic, scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features. The protection of natural river processes is a high priority.

Backcountry

Up to 96.10% of the parks are designated wilderness or backcountry areas that are managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. The parks' backcountry and wilderness areas continue to have a variety of permitted activities and commercial operations. Existing facilities remain. Most stressors to the backcountry are regionwide, such as air pollution and climate change, rather than from activities within the parks.

Kings Canyon National Park

Cedar Grove and the Floor of the Kings Canyon.

The Kings Canyon is a glacially carved deep canyon with waterfalls, lush meadows, campgrounds, and commercial facilities, as well as popular backcountry access, visited mostly by campers and hikers who come to enjoy the quiet or by persons passing through the area to access the backcountry. Cedar Grove village is a low-use area with an extended season.

Grant Grove. Grant Grove is a pristine sequoia grove with the world's third largest tree (the General Grant Tree) and the previously logged Big Stump Grove. Grant Grove continues as a very popular destination, with a highly visited sequoia grove. Grant Grove village offers day and overnight activities, mixed with other park development and uses. Circulation and congestion problems remain.

Sequoia National Park

Dorst / Halstead Meadow / Cabin Creek. Dorst, Halstead Meadow, and Cabin Creek are within a

forested area of open evergreen stands, meadows, and small sequoia groves. The Dorst area provides camping and some facilities along the Generals Highway. It serves as the trailhead to Muir Grove.

Wuksachi. Wuksachi is a new developed area set amid rocky outcrops and surrounded by evergreen forest. Wuksachi village provides year-round facilities for lodging and food service, plus residential and park operations areas in accordance with the concession contract.

Lodgepole. Lodgepole lies within the beautiful Tokopah Canyon of the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. The Tokopah Falls trail is a popular day hike. Lodgepole is a very popular campground with amenities, the dominant day-use commercial site, a river recreation site, a wilderness trailhead, and the principal employee residential area, all near one another.

Wolverton. Wolverton, a large open meadow in a forested valley, provides summer picnicking, winter activities, day-hiking trails, and a backcountry trailhead.

Giant Forest. The giant sequoia grove at Giant Forest remains Sequoia National Park's primary day use feature. The grove, site of a major restoration effort, illustrates the premiere, naturally functioning giant sequoia ecosystem, with 6 of the 10 largest trees in the world, meadows, and abundant wildlife. The desired visitor experience is a walk in the woods to see the Big Trees. Visitors focus on the Giant Forest museum / Big Trees Trail area, the General Sherman Tree, Moro Rock, and Crescent Meadow. The extensive trail system is retained. Private vehicular access to the grove is retained but is limited by parking capacities; during peak-use periods some roads and/or parking areas are closed and replaced by shuttle system access.

Crystal Cave. Crystal Cave provides the primary public opportunity to experience the parks' significant cave resources.

Ash Mountain / Foothills. The foothills of Sequoia National Park represent some of the best protected foothill wildlands in the Sierra Nevada, featuring blue oak woodlands, chaparral, riparian corridors, and abundant wildlife. Low levels of year-round visitor use are accommodated. The Ash Mountain area is the parks' primary administrative and operations center, and it provides some seasonal and permanent residences.

Mineral King. Mineral King Valley represents an extraordinary and spectacular experience in the Sierra Nevada because of its unusual metamorphic geology and appearance. Mineral King Road continues to provide access to recreational cabins, a small resort, campgrounds, and the alpine backcountry. Low levels of visitor services and activities are accommodated along the corridor. Special use permit cabins are removed in accordance with legislation to provide more area for public recreation.

Dillonwood. Dillonwood, the previously logged sequoia grove that was added to Sequoia National Park in 2000, is open to pedestrian use. There are experiments with a variety of sequoia forest management techniques.

Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups

Parkwide

The parks' appeal is broadened to be more relevant to diverse user groups. Increased day use is accommodated, and overnight visitation is retained. The integrity of park resources is paramount. Stronger educational and outreach programs provide enjoyment and instill park conservation values. The basic character of park activities and the rustic architecture of facilities is retained so that the parks remain strikingly different from surrounding areas. Park administrative facilities are redesigned and may be

relocated outside the parks. Park facilities accommodate sustainable growth.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

As described for the no-action alternative, national wild and scenic rivers, as well as rivers that are being studied for designation, are preserved in free-flowing condition, and they and their immediate environments are protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. In managing these rivers, emphasis is given to protecting and enhancing the outstandingly remarkable values of each river segment, including aesthetic, scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features. The protection of natural river processes is a high priority.

Backcountry

Up to 96.10% of the parks are designated wilderness or backcountry areas that are compatible with management as wilderness. Resource conditions in the parks' backcountry and wilderness areas are improved. Facilities are evaluated for usefulness and compatibility with wilderness, and additional facilities are considered only in the nonwilderness backcountry. Most stressors to the backcountry are regionwide, such as air pollution and climate change, rather than from activities within the parks.

Kings Canyon National Park

Cedar Grove and the Floor of the Kings Canyon. The Kings Canyon is a glacially carved deep canyon with waterfalls, lush meadows, campgrounds, and commercial facilities, as well as popular backcountry access. The identity of the Kings Canyon is strengthened and enhanced, but the area remains less visited and quieter than Grant Grove or Giant Forest. Visitors come to see the canyon's special features. The basic character of camping and backcountry access remains.

Cedar Grove village is made more efficient and offers a modestly greater variety of overnight accommodations. The area's season includes more spring and fall time.

Grant Grove. Grant Grove is a pristine sequoia grove with the world's third largest tree (the General Grant Tree) and the previously logged Big Stump Grove. The area continues as a very popular destination, with a highly visited sequoia grove. Grant Grove village offers day and overnight activities. Incompatible visitor and operational functions are separated. Facility development and use are limited to be consistent with sustainable water and sewer capacity. Circulation is redesigned and improved to reduce congestion.

Sequoia National Park

Dorst / Halstead Meadow / Cabin Creek. Dorst, Halstead Meadow, and Cabin Creek are within a forested area of open evergreen stands, meadows, and small sequoia groves. The Dorst area provides diverse camping opportunities and some facilities along the Generals Highway. It serves as the trailhead to Muir Grove.

Wuksachi. Wuksachi is a new developed area set amid rocky outcrops and surrounded by evergreen forest. Wuksachi village provides year-round facilities for lodging and food service, plus residential and park operations areas in accordance with the concession contract.

Lodgepole. Lodgepole lies within the beautiful Tokopah Canyon of the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. The Tokopah Falls trail is a popular day hike. Lodgepole is a very popular campground with amenities, the dominant day-use commercial site, a river recreation site, a wilderness trailhead, and the principal employee residential area. Lodgepole offers expanded day activities and services, while continuing to provide overnight camping. Incompatible park and visitor functions are separated.

Wolverton. Wolverton, a large open meadow in a forested valley, provides the main day use staging

area for Giant Forest shuttles, plus backcountry access; winter uses are expanded.

Giant Forest. The giant sequoia grove at Giant Forest remains Sequoia National Park's primary day use feature. The grove, site of a major restoration effort, illustrates the premiere, naturally functioning giant sequoia ecosystem, with 6 of the 10 largest trees in the world, meadows, and abundant wildlife. The desired visitor experience is a walk in the woods to see the Big Trees. Visitors focus on the Giant Forest museum / Big Trees Trail area, the General Sherman Tree, Moro Rock, and Crescent Meadow. The extensive trail system is retained. Private vehicular access to the grove is retained but is limited by parking capacities; during peak-use periods some roads and/or parking areas are closed and replaced by shuttle system access. (This is the same as the no-action alternative.)

Crystal Cave. Crystal Cave provides the primary public opportunity to experience the parks' significant cave resources.

Ash Mountain / Foothills. The foothills of Sequoia National Park represent some of the best protected foothill wildlands in the Sierra Nevada, featuring blue oak woodlands, chaparral, riparian corridors, and abundant wildlife. Increased levels of recreational use are accommodated primarily along the Middle and North Forks of the Kaweah River. The Ash Mountain area is the parks' primary administrative and operations center. The area continues to have some seasonal as well as permanent residences for essential personnel. A partnership is developed with the gateway community to meet park needs and to retain the character of a small, rural community.

Mineral King. Mineral King Valley represents an extraordinary and spectacular experience in the Sierra Nevada because of its unusual metamorphic geology and appearance. Mineral King Road continues to provide access to the alpine backcountry, public recreation, campgrounds, and Silver City private cabins and resort. Qualities that made the road

corridor eligible for listing on the national register are maintained and preserved, while the road corridor provides increased public recreational access to the alpine backcountry and historic resources. Slightly higher levels of public use are accommodated. As special use permits expire, permit cabins are acquired and adaptively reused for public purposes. (The National Park Service would partner with a nonprofit or commercial services organization to provide public lodging or other public use. A plan would be developed for public uses, including limited use by former permittees. The plan would address treatment methods to preserve the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District, sustainable use, code compliance, needed utilities, self-sustaining funding, maintenance, and potential hazardous materials mitigation. It would also develop a decision tree for management in case of a natural disaster.)

Dillonwood. The previously logged sequoia grove that was added to Sequoia National Park in 2000 is protected, and modest use levels are accommodated. Dillonwood provides backcountry access through a sequoia grove. Day use is allowed. There are experiments with a variety of sequoia forest management techniques that are compatible with the NPS mission. (This is an interim vision pending site-specific planning.)

Alternative A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development

Parkwide

The parks are natural resource preserves; they are primarily valued because they contain publicly owned resources that will be conserved for the future. Levels of use are lower than at present, and visitor experiences are more directly connected to natural resources and provide more solitude. The parks strongly contrast with surrounding lands that are under increasing pressure for use and development. Park managers aggressively cooperate with the managers of surrounding lands to enhance range-wide biodiversity.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

As described for the no-action alternative, national wild and scenic rivers, as well as rivers that are being studied for designation, are preserved in free-flowing condition, and they and their immediate environments are protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. In managing these rivers, primary emphasis is given to protecting the outstandingly remarkable values of each river segment, including their aesthetic, scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features. The protection of natural river processes is a high priority.

Backcountry

Up to approximately 96.11% of the parks are designated wilderness or are compatible with management as wilderness. Resource conditions in the parks' backcountry and wilderness areas are improved. Visitor use is reduced from the present; social conflicts are reduced while there are more opportunities for solitude, high-impact activities are eliminated (e.g., no campfires), and facilities are removed where feasible.

Kings Canyon National Park

Cedar Grove and the Floor of the Kings Canyon. As described for the no-action alternative, the Kings Canyon is visited mostly by campers and hikers who come to enjoy the area's quiet or by persons passing through the area to access the backcountry. Cedar Grove village is a low-use area with an extended season. But under this alternative there is a focus on resource preservation, facilities at Cedar Grove village are reduced in number, and visitation is less than at present.

Grant Grove. Grant Grove continues as a popular destination, with a highly visited sequoia grove. More of the area is returned to natural conditions, with fewer commercial facilities.

Sequoia National Park

Dorst / Halstead Meadow / Cabin Creek. The Dorst area provides less frontcountry camping with improved resource conditions and visitor experiences.

Wuksachi. Wuksachi village provides year-round facilities for lodging and food service, plus residential and park operations areas in accordance with the concession contract (the same as the no-action alternative).

Lodgepole. Lodgepole provides reduced levels of day use and campgrounds that are separated from operations.

Wolverton. Wolverton is the main day use staging area for Giant Forest shuttles. It also functions as a summer and winter trailhead.

Giant Forest. The vision for Giant Forest is the same as for the no-action and preferred alternatives. The Giant Forest sequoia grove remains Sequoia National Park's primary day use feature. The desired visitor experience is a walk in the woods to see the Big Trees. Visitors focus on the Giant Forest museum / Big Trees Trail area, the General Sherman Tree, Moro Rock, and Crescent Meadow. The extensive trail system is retained. Private vehicular access to the grove is retained but is limited by parking capacities; during peak-use periods some roads and/or parking areas are closed and replaced by shuttle system access.

Crystal Cave. The visitor experience at Crystal Cave is improved by reducing use.

Ash Mountain / Foothills. Limited levels of recreational use are accommodated primarily along the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River. Park operations and residential areas at the Ash Mountain area are relocated outside the park, and the sites are restored, improving resource conditions.

Mineral King. Mineral King Road provides access to the alpine backcountry. Lower levels of visitor services and activities are accommodated along the corridor. Special use permit cabins are

removed in accordance with legislation and the sites are returned to natural conditions.

Dillonwood. The sequoia grove is protected, and low use levels are accommodated. (This is an interim vision pending site-specific planning.)

Alternative C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth.

Parkwide

The parks present a traditional park character and a feel of yesteryear, where experiences are more reminiscent of how visitors used the parks in the past. This is conveyed through rustic architecture and lower impact recreational activities (such as sightseeing and hiking) that were popular from the 1920s to the 1960s, and providing an experience that is strikingly different from that in an urban setting. Redesigned developed areas accommodate limited growth; overnight stays are encouraged. Negative impacts on natural resources are controlled, so as to maintain or improve resource conditions.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

As described for the no-action alternative, national wild and scenic rivers, as well as rivers that are being studied for designation, are preserved in free-flowing condition. The outstandingly remarkable values of each river segment, including their aesthetic, scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features are protected. The protection of natural river processes is a high priority.

Backcountry

Up to approximately 96.09% of the parks are designated wilderness or are compatible with management as wilderness. Resource conditions in the parks' backcountry and

wilderness areas are improved in some places. Party sizes and use levels are limited and dispersed, reducing the need for onsite regulation. Most commercial and park facilities remain.

Kings Canyon National Park

Cedar Grove and the Floor of the Kings

Canyon. The identity of the Kings Canyon is strengthened and enhanced, but the area remains less visited and quieter than Grant Grove or Giant Forest. Visitors come to see the canyon's special features. The traditional character of camping and backcountry access remains. Cedar Grove village is enlarged slightly and offers a modestly greater variety of overnight accommodations. The area's season is lengthened to include more spring and fall time.

Grant Grove. Grant Grove continues as a very popular destination. Grant Grove village becomes a large destination village, with facilities redesigned for more day and overnight use and improved circulation. Overlapping and incompatible uses are separated, and circulation and congestion problems are addressed.

Sequoia National Park

Dorst / Halstead Meadow / Cabin Creek. As described for the no-action alternative, the Dorst area provides camping and some facilities along the Generals Highway. It serves as the trailhead to Muir Grove.

Wuksachi. Wuksachi village provides year-round facilities for lodging and food service, plus residential and park operations areas in accordance with the concession contract (the same as the no-action alternative).

Lodgepole. Lodgepole is redesigned and expanded, with an emphasis on overnight use. Day uses are relocated to other areas, and incompatible uses are separated.

Wolverton. Wolverton provides the main day use staging area for Giant Forest shuttles. Backcountry access and winter uses are expanded.

Giant Forest. As described for the other alternatives, the Giant Forest sequoia grove remains Sequoia National Park's primary day use feature. The desired visitor experience is a walk in the woods to see the Big Trees. Visitors focus on the Giant Forest museum / Big Trees Trail area, the General Sherman Tree, Moro Rock, and Crescent Meadow. The extensive trail system is retained. Private vehicular access to the grove is retained but is limited by parking capacities; during peak-use periods some roads and/or parking areas are closed and replaced by shuttle system access.

Crystal Cave. As described for the no-action alternative, Crystal Cave provides the primary public opportunity to experience the parks' significant cave resources.

Ash Mountain / Foothills. Increased levels of recreational use are accommodated primarily along the Middle Fork and the North Fork of the Kaweah River. The Ash Mountain area is the parks' primary administrative and operations center. The area continues to have some seasonal as well as permanent residences for essential personnel.

Mineral King. Mineral King Road continues to provide access to recreational cabins, a small resort, and the alpine backcountry. The visual character of the historic road corridor is preserved. Slightly higher levels of public use are accommodated. Special use permit cabins are preserved to exemplify a recreation community in Sequoia National Park.

Dillonwood. Dillonwood provides primitive camping facilities and backcountry access within a sequoia grove. (This is an interim vision pending site-specific planning.)

Alternative D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth

Parkwide

The parks preserve some of their traditional character and rustic architecture, but diverse new user groups and uses are encouraged. Day use is more common. Facilities are expanded to meet users' needs, while frequent interpretive programs are offered to educate, entertain, and instill a sense of park conservation values. Negative impacts on natural resources are controlled or mitigated, so as to maintain or improve resource conditions.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

As described for the no-action alternative, national wild and scenic rivers, as well as rivers that are being studied for designation, are preserved in free-flowing condition. Outstandingly remarkable values of each river segment, including their aesthetic, scenic, historic, archaeological, and scientific features, are protected. The protection of natural river processes is a high priority.

Backcountry

Up to approximately 89.37% of the parks are designated wilderness or are compatible with management as wilderness. The parks' backcountry and wilderness areas have improved conditions in some places. Party sizes and use levels are higher than under alternative C, with greater levels of onsite regulation. Uses are separated and may be concentrated in high-use areas. Additional facilities may be added in the nonwilderness backcountry if needed.

Kings Canyon National Park

Cedar Grove and the Floor of the Kings

Canyon. The Kings Canyon becomes a major park feature equal to Grant Grove or Giant Forest, with visitors drawn by the area's strong identity as

the “quiet Yosemite.” Backcountry access remains an important function. The area’s season is lengthened to include more spring and fall time. Cedar Grove village is expanded to provide improved opportunities for more camping and lodging.

Grant Grove. Grant Grove continues as a very popular destination, with a heavily visited sequoia grove. Grant Grove village is expanded, with more facilities for day and overnight use. Overlapping and incompatible uses are separated, and circulation and congestion problems are addressed by providing new facilities.

Sequoia National Park

Dorst / Halstead Meadow / Cabin Creek. Similar to the no-action alternative, the Dorst area provides camping and some facilities along the Generals Highway, and it serves as the trailhead to Muir Grove, but it provides more opportunities for visitors.

Wuksachi. An expanded Wuksachi village provides diverse day and overnight uses, including picnic areas, trails, a traditional mix of overnight facilities (lodges and cabins), and food service, plus areas for residential purposes and park operations.

Lodgepole. Lodgepole offers expanded day activities and services, while continuing to provide overnight camping. Incompatible uses are separated.

Wolverton. Wolverton provides the main day use staging area for Giant Forest shuttles plus backcountry access and winter uses are expanded (the same as alternative C).

Giant Forest. As described for the other alternatives, the Giant Forest sequoia grove remains Sequoia National Park’s primary day use feature. The desired visitor experience is a walk in the woods to see the Big Trees. Visitors focus on the Giant Forest museum / Big Trees Trail area, the General Sherman Tree, Moro Rock,

and Crescent Meadow. The extensive trail system is retained. Private vehicular access to the grove is retained but is limited by parking capacities; during peak-use periods some roads and/or parking areas are closed and replaced by shuttle system access.

Crystal Cave. Additional types of tours are offered to provide for diverse visitor experiences.

Ash Mountain / Foothills. Increased levels of recreational use are accommodated primarily along the Middle and North Forks of the Kaweah River. The Ash Mountain area is the parks’ primary administrative and operations center. The area continues to have some seasonal as well as permanent residences for essential personnel. (This is the same as alternative C.)

Mineral King. Mineral King Road continues to provide access to recreational cabins, a small resort, campgrounds, and the alpine backcountry. Qualities that made the road corridor eligible for listing on the national register are maintained and preserved, while the road corridor provides increased public recreational access to the alpine backcountry and historic resources. Slightly higher levels of public use are accommodated. Selected special use permit cabins are acquired and preserved for interpretation and educational use.

Dillonwood. Dillonwood provides primitive camping facilities and backcountry access within a sequoia grove (the same as C), plus a group education primitive area is provided, and day use exploration is allowed. There are experiments with a variety of sequoia forest management techniques. (This is an interim vision pending site-specific planning.)

MITIGATING MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE ALTERNATIVES

Mitigation for Impacts on Wetlands/Floodplains

Areas in the parks that would be affected by soil or vegetation disturbance will be surveyed for the presence of wetlands as part of project planning

and design. If wetlands are present, more detailed wetland mapping will be performed. Adverse impacts on wetlands from activities proposed under any alternative will be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Wetlands that have been damaged or degraded by previous uses will be considered for restoration to mitigate adverse impacts or to meet the goals and intent of the NPS wetland protection guidelines (NPS *Director's Order #77-1*). Original functions and values of each wetland will be restored to the greatest extent practicable.

Based on existing information, no new facilities are expected to be constructed in floodplains. More detailed floodplain analysis will be completed prior to any new construction to confirm that facilities are sited outside of floodplains.

Mitigation for Impacts on Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive Species

If any state or federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or other special status species are found in areas that could be affected by construction or visitor use under any of the alternatives, the National Park Service will first consult informally with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Park Service will attempt to avoid, minimize, reduce, compensate, or otherwise mitigate any potential impacts. If it is determined through informal consultation that an action or proposed project may adversely affect a listed or proposed species, the Park Service will initiate formal consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Additional protection will be provided for areas where sensitive species are found, such as bighorn sheep lambing and foraging areas, waters with populations of mountain yellow-legged frogs and Yosemite toads, and raptor nesting sites. This could include closures of areas or restrictions on use (e.g., rock climbing

in sheep habitat, trail use in the vicinity of occupied raptor nests).

Mitigation for Impacts on Caves

Restrictions will continue to be placed on access to caves in order to protect features such as bat colonies, invertebrate populations, delicate cave formations, archeological sites, and paleontological materials. Caves with particularly sensitive features and fauna will remain closed to recreational use. Other caves with delicate features could be opened for limited recreational use, but permits and required qualifications for trip leaders would serve to control access. Other management provisions to protect resources include prohibitions on camping, the removal of cave features, or the depositing of human wastes; guidelines for minimizing disturbance to cave dwelling animals; inventories and monitoring to document resource conditions and to identify impacts and mitigation; and gating of entrances. Public tours of other caves would occur only after cave resources were evaluated, the impacts of such access were analyzed, and protective measures were identified. Only more resilient caves (those with less sensitive or unique features and fauna) would be candidates for tours.

Mitigation for Increased Water Withdrawals

Future studies will be completed, and a monitoring program will be implemented to determine potential impacts from increased water withdrawals (based on actual 2001 water withdrawals) before any new facilities for additional visitor use are undertaken. Studies will also evaluate the cumulative impacts of water withdrawals. Actions to minimize water demand, such as the use of conservation efforts and low-flow fixtures, will continue to be identified and implemented.

Mitigation for Facility Construction

Most construction will occur in areas that have already been disturbed by facilities, roads, parking

areas, or trails. Mitigation will minimize temporary impacts from construction on soils, vegetation, sequoia groves, streams, wildlife, riparian areas, meadows, and other resources. Such measures will include silt fences, erosion control blankets, mulch, and revegetation with native species where appropriate and necessary. Topsoil and vegetation will be salvaged from construction areas and stockpiled for later use in revegetation efforts.

Mitigation for Archeological Resources; Historic Structures, Districts, and Landscapes; and Ethnographic Resources

Mitigation measures for historic structures, districts, and landscapes are based on the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR 800). They stress avoidance of impacts. Actions that may affect historic structures, districts, or landscapes should meet the “Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation” (36 CFR Part 67) and the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (NPS 1995d; codified at 36 CFR Part 68). Compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be fully addressed. When adverse effects cannot be avoided, mitigation measures are determined through consultation with the state historic preservation officer and may include documentation according to HABS/HAER/HALS standards.

Prior to the demolition of any structure listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, a survey for archeological resources in the general vicinity of the affected structure would be designed and conducted in consultation with the California state historic preservation office. The excavation, recordation, and mapping of any significant cultural remains would be completed prior to demolition to ensure that important archeological data that otherwise would be lost was recovered and documented.

When a historic structure is slated for demolition, architectural elements and objects may be salvaged for reuse in rehabilitating similar structures, or they may be added to the parks’ museum collection. In addition, the historical alteration of the human environment and reasons for that alteration would be interpreted to park visitors.

A data recovery plan would be developed for all archeological sites that could be affected by visitor use or construction.

Consultations with American Indians linked by ties of kinship, culture, or history to park lands would address the inadvertent discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. All provisions outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC 3001) would be followed.

THE ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The environmentally preferred alternative is defined as “the alternative that will best promote the national environmental policy as expressed in section 101(b) of the National Environmental Policy Act” (Council on Environmental Quality 1981).

After the environmental consequences of the alternatives were analyzed, each alternative was evaluated as to how well the goals stated in section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act are met (see text box). The following discussion highlights how each alternative meets these goals, while Table 2 compares the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative.

The No-Action Alternative. The no-action alternative represents continuity with the present course of management. It responds to resource impacts and visitor demands once they occur rather than managing resources and visitor experiences proactively. Many traditional uses would continue; stock use would be monitored to ensure that resources were not impaired. Most of

Goals of the National Environmental Policy Act

Section 101(b) states that it is the continuing responsibility of the federal government to improve and coordinate federal plans, functions, programs, and resources in order to

1. fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
2. ensure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
3. attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
4. preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
5. achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities;
6. enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

the parks are backcountry, with over 83% managed as federally designated wilderness. Private land and special use permits would continue, subject to existing law and land protection plans, resulting in the eventual removal of special use permit cabins at Mineral King. Congestion would continue to adversely affect visitor access and experiences. Facilities for park operations and visitor use would be gradually replaced with more sustainable facilities.

Resource preservation goals (1, 4) and sustainability goals (3, 6) would not be met to the same degree as under the other alternatives. Similarly, visitor experience goals (2, 3, 5) would be achieved to a lesser degree under the no-action alternative than under the preferred alternative or alternatives C and D.

The Preferred Alternative. Under the preferred alternative, which was developed based on combining the advantages of the other alternatives, resource integrity would be paramount, while sustainable growth and development would be allowed to meet the needs of diverse user groups. Extensive wilderness would continue to be compatible with the vision for this alternative, preserving the natural environment for succeeding generations.

Recreational opportunities and visitor experiences would be enhanced by

- meeting needs of diverse user groups
- increasing day use, primarily in high use areas
- encouraging more diverse backcountry uses
- improving access to the parks by redesigning some circulation patterns and parking areas, and by providing a limited transit service
- maintaining the essential elements of park character (from both a natural and a cultural viewpoint) and basic recreational opportunities, including stock use, which would be monitored to protect resources
- expanding educational and outreach programs to further enhance public enjoyment, park values, and stewardship
- improving facilities, services, and transportation
- acquiring and adaptively reusing special use permit cabins at Mineral King for public use, preserving locally important cultural resources, and enhancing public recreational opportunities

These actions would ensure safe, healthful, and pleasing surroundings; attain the widest beneficial use of the environment without degradation or other unintended consequences; and achieve a balance between population and resource use that would permit a wide sharing of life's amenities.

Some park operational facilities could be relocated outside the parks if beneficial. Private landownership would be accommodated where it did not affect public use.

Taken as a whole, this alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative because it would best meet all six goals stated in the National Environmental Policy Act.

Alternative A. Alternative A would focus on protecting natural resources, reducing facilities, and limiting use. Extensive wilderness would continue to be compatible with this vision, thus protecting the natural environment for succeeding generations. At the same time this alternative would provide less protection for cultural resources than would the preferred alternative or alternatives C and D. Facilities would be relocated outside the parks as much as possible to protect resources. Fewer visitor facilities and services would adversely affect visitor experiences, not supporting diversity and variety of individual choice. Educational facilities would be reduced, while educational programs and outreach would increase, with reliance on staff and written materials. By eliminating stock use, privately owned land inside park boundaries, and special use permits, along with restoring many previously impacted areas, alternative A would meet natural resource preservation goals for future generations, but it would limit individual choice and a wide sharing of life's amenities.

Because this alternative would focus on more limited access, fewer facilities, less cultural resource protection, and more restricted recreational and educational opportunities, it would not fully realize goals related to diversity, variety of individual choice, or culturally pleasing surroundings.

Alternative C. Alternative C would focus on traditional park experience, those typical of the 1920s to the 1960s. Extensive wilderness would continue to be compatible with this vision, protecting the natural environment for succeeding generations. Alternative C would emphasize cultural resources related to specific themes, thus preserving important cultural aspects of our national heritage.

Recreational opportunities and visitor experiences would be enhanced by

- accommodating more use, especially overnight stays, backcountry use, and traditional recreational activities (including stock use, which would be monitored to ensure that no resources were impaired)
- improving facilities, services, and transportation
- reducing backcountry party sizes, allowing more dispersed and less regulated use

While these actions would allow increased visitation and retain traditional experiences, the experiences would not appeal to all Americans.

Privately owned land would remain. Hydroelectric facilities, if continued use was authorized by Congress, would be monitored to ensure that no resources were impaired.

Overall, alternative C would not fully realize the parks' diverse visitation potential for all Americans or achieve a balance between population and resource use and a wide sharing of life's amenities.

Alternative D. Alternative D would focus on preserving the parks' basic natural and cultural character and guiding growth. Extensive wilderness would continue to be compatible with this vision, again protecting the natural environment for succeeding generations. Sustainable visitation would be accommodated, and facilities and programs would be adapted to changing user groups. Orientation, park stewardship, and resource values would be emphasized.

Recreational opportunities and visitor experiences would be enhanced by

- increasing day use, and continuing many overnight use opportunities
- expanding educational programs
- providing more facilities for visitor use, and diverse recreational opportunities, including stock use that would be monitored to ensure no resources were impaired

- providing transit in all major areas, re-designing roads, and greatly expanding parking to relieve congestion
- acquiring selected special use permit cabins at Mineral King for interpretation and educational use, thus preserving locally important cultural resources

These actions would ensure safe, healthful, and pleasing surroundings for all Americans, attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment, and allow a wide sharing of life's amenities.

A bypass road would reduce congestion at Grant Grove, but this action would transfer related impacts to the surrounding Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Private landownership would be accommodated where it did not affect public use.

Overall, this alternative would meet most of the goals of the National Environmental Policy, but somewhat less effectively than the preferred alternative, especially for resource preservation.

TABLE 2: COMPARISON OF HOW THE ALTERNATIVES MEET THE GOALS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

NEPA Sec. 101(b) Goals	No-Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative C	Alternative D
1. Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations.	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protects naturally functioning ecosystems and preserves biodiversity • establishes river protection measures • manages fire for ecological goals, public safety, and property protection • monitors and regulates stock use to protect resources • implements drought plans as needed. <p>Does not meet goal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seeks new water supply and additional storage • responds to management problems and visitor needs in a piecemeal fashion, without considering the overall effects of individual actions 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserves naturally functioning ecosystems and biodiversity • establishes river protection measures • manages fire for ecological goals, public safety, and property protection • monitors and regulates stock use to protect resources • limits water withdrawals to protect resources; increases efficiency; implements drought plans • uses management prescriptions as a framework for responding to problems and visitor needs, with limits for development, water use, and carrying capacity 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserves naturally functioning ecosystems and biodiversity • establishes river protection measures • manages fire for ecological goals, public safety, and property protection • limits water withdrawals to protect resources; reduces water demand; implements drought plans • uses management prescriptions as a framework for responding to problems and visitor needs, with less development and a greater emphasis on backcountry uses <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bans stock use, thus hampering resource protection efforts 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserves naturally functioning ecosystems and biodiversity • establishes river protection measures • manages fire for ecological goals, public safety, and property protection • monitors and regulates stock use to protect resources • limits water withdrawals to protect resources; increases efficiency; implements drought plans • uses management prescriptions as a framework for responding to problems and visitor needs, with limits for development, water use, and carrying capacity 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserves naturally functioning ecosystems and biodiversity • establishes river protection measures • manages fire for ecological goals, public safety, and property protection • monitors and regulates stock use to protect resources • limits water withdrawals to protect resources; increases efficiency; implements drought plans • uses management prescriptions as a framework for responding to problems and visitor needs
2. Ensure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings.	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continues winter use and cave visitation <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limits educational facilities, programs and outreach <p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continues deteriorating frontcountry trail system • congestion affects visitor access 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continues cave visitation • expands winter use • improves facilities, services, circulation, and transportation • meets recreational and educational needs of diverse visitors • expands educational programs and outreach 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continues winter use and cave visitation <p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limits educational programs but expands educational outreach • no stock use • reduces frontcountry trail system • reduces visitor facilities and services 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continues winter use and cave visitation • improves facilities, services, and transportation • expands traditional ranger naturalist programs • improves the frontcountry trail system <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seeks to meet recreational needs of 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expands winter use • expands cave visitation • meets recreational and educational needs of diverse visitors • expands educational programs and outreach • improves the frontcountry trail system for all users

NEPA Sec. 101(b) Goals	No-Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improves the front-country trail system to meet needs of all users <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses congestion through redesign and relocation of facilities 		<p>traditional user groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses congestion through the redesign of roads and parking <p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not all user groups' needs met eliminates educational outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improves facilities, services, circulation, and transportation <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses congestion through new road construction and expanded parking
3. <i>Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences.</i>	<p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> replaces facilities with more sustainably designed facilities as needed <p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continues current use patterns 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustainable level of services, facilities, utilities and transportation administrative facilities potentially relocated outside the parks 	<p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> limits access and visitation 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more sustainable level of facilities, services, utilities, and transportation <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continues hydroelectric facilities as long as no resource impairment 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustainable level of services, facilities, utilities, and transportation potentially relocates administrative facilities outside the parks
4. <i>Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice.</i>	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continues stock use <p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removes private historic structures at Mineral King 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continues stock use acquires and adaptively reuses private historic structures at Mineral King for public purposes meets needs of changing user groups provides diverse recreational opportunities <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> separates some uses 	<p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no stock use removes private historic structures at Mineral King fewer visitor facilities and services more restricted recreational opportunities 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continues stock use preserves private historic structures at Mineral King to exemplify a recreation community in Sequoia National Park <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourages traditional uses disperses backcountry use separates some uses 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continues stock use acquires selected private historic structures at Mineral King for interpretation and educational use provides diverse recreational opportunities <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> concentrates backcountry use separates some uses
5. <i>Achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities.</i>	<p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more sustainable facilities <p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> congestion continues does not proactively address increased visitation does not effectively respond to needs of changing user groups 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodates moderate increases in visitation with transit, more day use facilities, and diverse recreational opportunities. sustainable level of facilities, services, and transportation meets needs of nontraditional user groups 	<p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> limits visitation to provide higher quality experience to fewer visitors <p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fewer visitor facilities and services limits park access and does not address recreational needs for diverse user groups 	<p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourages traditional visitation patterns improves facilities, services, and transportation <p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> focuses on traditional use patterns without responding to recreational needs for diverse user groups 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increases recreational opportunities. sustainable level of facilities, services, and transportation supports visitation by diverse groups <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes a pattern of increased visitation, resulting in additional development
6. <i>Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.</i>	<p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> replaces facilities with more sustainably designed facilities as needed continues some patterns of incompatible development 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new facilities designed to meet sustainability goals potentially relocates administrative facilities outside the parks <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more compatible patterns of development 	<p>Meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> moves administrative facilities outside the parks, and restores impacted areas <p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more compatible patterns of development 	<p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new facilities designed to meet sustainability goals more compatible patterns of development 	<p>Partially meets goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new facilities designed to meet sustainability goals more compatible patterns of development <p>Does not meet goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> transfers park traffic and resource impacts to adjacent lands with Grant Grove bypass

The General Management Plan / Comprehensive Wild and Scenic River Management Plan

How the Alternatives Matrix is Organized

To make actions easier to compare, reference numbers and subheadings are used. Visions and alternative actions are presented in the following order:

Parkwide Visions and Concepts

- natural resources
- cultural resources
- transportation and circulation
- visitor use and facilities (including recreation, education, and facilities)
- private land and special use permits on park land
- park administration and operations

Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Middle Fork of the Kings River
- South Fork of the Kings River
- North Fork of the Kern River

Eligible and Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers

- South Fork of the San Joaquin River
- Marble Fork of the Kaweah River
- Middle Fork of the Kaweah River
- East Fork of the Kaweah River
- South Fork of the Kaweah River

Backcountry / Wilderness

- wilderness
- visitor use and facilities
- park administration and operations

Kings Canyon National Park

- Cedar Grove and the floor of the Kings Canyon
- Grant Grove

Sequoia National Park

- Dorst / Halstead / Cabin Creek
- Wuksachi
- Lodgepole
- Wolverton
- Giant Forest
- Crystal Cave
- Ash Mountain / Foothills
- Mineral King
- Dillonwood

The General Management Plan / Comprehensive Wild and Scenic River Management Plan — In Detail

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Parkwide Visions and Concepts</i>			
Park Vision	1.	The parks are managed as they are now in accordance with approved plans (such as development concept plans, and the 1996 Giant Forest Interim Management Plan); negative resource impacts and visitor demands are responded to by relocating development, reducing some uses, or confining new developed areas. Visitor uses are reassessed and revised as new information about natural and cultural resource impacts and visitor needs emerges. Current facilities are inadequate for park needs and visitor use levels, and crowding is common in some areas.	The parks' appeal is broadened to be more relevant to diverse user groups. Increased day use is accommodated, and overnight visitation is retained. The integrity of park resources is paramount. Stronger educational and outreach programs provide enjoyment and instill park conservation values. The basic character of park activities and the rustic architecture of facilities is retained so that the parks remain strikingly different from surrounding areas. Park administrative facilities are redesigned and may be relocated outside the parks. Park facilities accommodate sustainable growth.
Park Zones (relative amounts compared to no action)	2.	Backcountry predominates with a mix of low- and high-use frontcountry along Generals Highway, with several areas of park development .	Backcountry predominates with slightly less low-use frontcountry and slightly more high-use frontcountry along Generals Highway, with several areas of park development .
<i>Natural and Cultural Resources</i>			
Resources Management Plan (The Resources Management Plan is an implementation plan that reflects the direction of the general management plan.)	3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perpetuate naturally functioning ecosystems and preserve native biodiversity in accordance with the 1999 <i>Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan</i>. This plan prescribes resource protection and management practices derived from law and policy. (Some of these practices are referenced in this document.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perpetuate naturally functioning ecosystems and preserve native biodiversity in accordance with the 1999 <i>Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan</i>. This plan prescribes resource protection and management practices derived from law and policy. (Some of these practices are referenced in this document.)

NOTE: All text for the preferred alternative is included so that the alternative is complete in itself, even when the action is identical to the no-action alternative.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<i>Parkwide Visions and Concepts</i>		
<p>The parks are natural resource preserves; they are primarily valued because they contain publicly owned resources that will be conserved for the future. Levels of use are lower than at present, and visitor experiences are directly connected to natural resources and provide more solitude. The parks strongly contrast with surrounding lands that are under increasing pressure for use and development, and the parks' boundaries are better identified. Park managers aggressively cooperate with the managers of surrounding lands to enhance range-wide biodiversity.</p>	<p>The parks present a traditional park character and a feel of yesteryear, where experiences are more reminiscent of how visitors used the parks in the past. This is conveyed through rustic architecture and lower impact recreational activities (such as sight-seeing and hiking) popular from the 1920s to the 1960s, providing an experience that is strikingly different from that in an urban setting. Redesigned developed areas accommodate limited growth; overnight stays are encouraged. Negative impacts on natural resources are controlled so as to maintain or improve resource conditions.</p>	<p>The parks preserve some of their traditional park character and rustic architecture, but diverse new user groups and uses are encouraged. Day use is more common. Facilities are expanded to meet users' needs, while frequent interpretive programs are offered to educate, entertain, and instill a sense of park conservation values. Negative impacts on natural resources are contained or mitigated, so as to maintain or improve resource conditions.</p>
<p>More backcountry and less low- and high-use frontcountry and park development.</p>	<p>More low- and high-use frontcountry, slightly more park development and slightly less backcountry.</p>	<p>More low- and high-use frontcountry, slightly more park development and less backcountry.</p>
<i>Natural and Cultural Resources</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
River Protection Measures <i>(Also see "Wild and Scenic Rivers — Boundaries, Classifications, and Outstandingly Remarkable Values" for additional protection measures.)</i>	4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish river protection measures, such as no overnight facilities or designated campsites within 100-year floodplains (NPS <i>Management Policies</i>, sec. 4.6.4). Development setbacks would be based on 100-year floodplains, which will vary depending on the terrain adjacent to the river. Other measures would cover removal of facilities within floodplains, river-based recreation management, riverbank restoration, and prohibition of motorized watercraft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish river protection measures, such as no overnight facilities (such as designated campsites) within 100-year floodplains (NPS <i>Management Policies</i>, sec. 4.6.4). Development setbacks would be based on 100-year floodplains, which will vary depending on the terrain adjacent to the river. Other measures would cover removal of facilities within floodplains, river-based recreation management, riverbank restoration, and prohibition of motorized watercraft.
Fire and Fuels Management <i>(The Fire and Fuels Management Plan is an implementation plan that reflects the direction of the NPS Management Policies 2001, the Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan, and the General Management Plan.)</i>	5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage wildland fire to address its profound ecological role in park ecosystems and its potential impacts on public safety, health, well-being, and property. As specified in the <i>Fire and Fuels Management Plan</i>, use prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to enhance ecosystem health while providing for public health, safety, well-being, and property protection. Give a higher priority to prescribed fire than to mechanical treatments in the <i>Fire and Fuels Management Plan</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage wildland fire to address its profound ecological role in park ecosystems and its potential impacts on public safety, health, well-being, and property. As specified in the <i>Fire and Fuels Management Plan</i>, use prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to enhance ecosystem health while providing for public health, safety, well-being, and property protection. Give prescribed fire a higher priority than to mechanical treatments in the <i>Fire and Fuels Management Plan</i>.
Sensitive Species	6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and manage threatened, endangered, and sensitive species in accordance with the NPS mission. (The <i>Resources Management Plan</i> addresses specific topics, such as bighorn sheep and mountain yellow-legged frogs.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and manage threatened, endangered, and sensitive species in accordance with the NPS mission. (The <i>Resources Management Plan</i> addresses specific topics, such as bighorn sheep and mountain yellow-legged frogs.)
Cultural Resources <i>(Historic structures/ districts, cultural landscapes, and archeological resources)</i>	7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate cultural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate cultural resources.
	8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, adaptively reuse, rehabilitate, or remove cultural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, adaptively reuse, rehabilitate, or remove cultural resources, ensuring that a full spectrum of resources that portray diverse park cultural themes would be preserved.
	9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office as required by law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office as required by law.
Native American Relations	10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with local Native American tribes as required by law to identify and further protect plant materials used for traditional cultural purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with local Native American tribes as required by law. Partner with local tribes to identify and further protect plant materials used for traditional cultural purposes; to provide interpretation of Native American uses of the area; and to offer local native crafts at park stores.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. • Preserve key cultural resources as development was removed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. • Preserve cultural resources associated with development prior to the 1950s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus partner with local tribes to identify and further protect plant materials used for traditional cultural purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C plus partner with local tribes to provide interpretation of Native American uses of the area; offer local native crafts at park stores.

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Transportation and Circulation			
Vehicle Traffic	11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept growing vehicle traffic as a result of changing user groups and increased levels of day use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with increasing vehicle traffic by improving the north entrance station, redesigning some roads and parking, improving signs, and redirecting traffic.
Transit Systems	12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a transit system in Giant Forest. Explore the feasibility of additional alternative transportation parkwide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a transit system in Giant Forest. Explore the feasibility of additional alternative transportation parkwide.
Generals Highway	13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to rebuild the Generals Highway to sustain existing traffic and preserve character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to rebuild the Generals Highway to sustain existing traffic and preserve character.
	14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No special designation for the Generals Highway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore special designation for the Generals Highway.
Visitor Use and Facilities			
Visitation	15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit growth to current / proposed facility capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate moderate increased visitation, with an emphasis on day use. Encourage diverse user groups.
Educational Facilities	16.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the need for some current educational facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand, redesign, or add educational facilities.
Park Education / Interpretive Programs	17.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the parks' interpretive programs under the present "Long-Range Interpretive Plan." Emphasize written interpretive materials for visitor education, focusing on providing basic visitor information, resource protection, orientation, and safety; continue to provide limited ranger naturalist programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a comprehensive interpretation plan Increase park orientation in developed areas. Expand ranger naturalist programs that focus on understanding and helping preserve park resources, safety, and teaching backcountry skills. Increase interpretation of cultural resources. Provide more day use educational opportunities.
Educational Programs outside the Parks	18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide educational programs limited in scope and intent outside the parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support resource protection efforts within the parks through greatly enlarged outreach efforts. Develop numerous partnerships. Have NPS staff and/or partners take programs to many regional classrooms. Create a classroom-focused Website to share the parks' missions. Connect the parks with a more diverse public by enlarging educational efforts outside the parks.
Visitor Facilities	19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain existing facilities inside the parks, and complete approved projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign and make existing developed areas more efficient to accommodate moderate increases and more diverse uses. When beneficial, move administrative facilities out of the parks.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Transportation and Circulation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce vehicle traffic by restricting visitor use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign some roads and parking to reduce vehicle traffic in some villages and in high-use frontcountry areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign some roads and parking to help reduce vehicle traffic throughout the parks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a transit system in Giant Forest. Do not provide additional transit because of reduced use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide transit services to all major areas. Use a more extensive transit system, possibly linking to public transit outside the parks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative, plus identify and facilitate the use of additional features along the Generals Highway corridor to disperse visitation and serve as a transportation corridor for buses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek "All-America Road" status for the Generals Highway.
Visitor Use and Facilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit visitation to a level compatible with uncrowded, resource-based experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodate more visitors, with an emphasis on overnight visitation; retain current day use visitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodate more visitors, with an emphasis on day use. Encourage diverse user groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of educational facilities to limit the amount of development within the parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace or expand some educational facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace or add educational facilities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a comprehensive interpretation plan • Minimize ranger naturalist programs; emphasize written interpretive materials for visitor education, focusing on resource protection, orientation, safety, stewardship, and leave-no-trace programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a comprehensive interpretation plan • Increase park orientation in developed areas. Reestablish and expand traditional ranger naturalist programs; focus on resource education during campfire programs. Emphasize cultural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a comprehensive interpretation plan • Similar to the preferred alternative except emphasize day use education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support resource protection efforts within the parks through greatly enlarged outreach efforts. Develop numerous partnerships. Have NPS staff and/or partners take programs to many regional classrooms. Create a classroom-focused Website to share the parks' missions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate educational programs outside the parks; concentrate on in-park education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to alternative A except connect the parks with a more diverse public by enlarging educational efforts outside the parks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce facilities. Move facilities outside the parks as much as possible to provide for more wildness in the parks and to allow further natural resource restoration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign some existing facilities to emphasize traditional character and retain most facilities inside the parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign and expand existing developed areas to provide for increased and more diverse uses. When economically feasible, move facilities out of the parks.

			Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
	20.	<p>Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RV dump stations retained unless they cannot comply with state regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RV dump stations retained unless they cannot comply with state regulations.
Frontcountry Trails	21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the existing functioning trail system (trails are deteriorating or difficult to follow in some areas). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversify experiences provided by the existing extensive trail system; reopen, restore, and expand the trail system as needed; enhance the frontcountry trail system with signs, guides, and multi-lingual education.
Stock Use	22.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue administrative, commercial, and private stock under current NPS policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue administrative, commercial, and private stock use under current NPS policies. Improve management through expanded use of controls on stock party size, regulation of dates and locations, designation of areas, and appropriate closures as needed.
Watercraft	23.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit motorized watercraft. Prohibit nonmotorized watercraft on the South Fork of the Kings River to protect resources and visitor experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit motorized watercraft. Manage nonmotorized watercraft through means such as permits, quotas, restricted areas, and designated access points to protect resources and visitor experiences.
Winter Use	24.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue existing winter use activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and accommodate increased, sustainable winter use.
Caves	25.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a limited number and type of tours to Crystal Cave. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a limited number and type of tours to Crystal Cave.
	26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow access to other caves by permit only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow access to other caves by permit only.
New Activities	27.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess new activities to determine their impact on resources and other visitors and allow those with no impact or acceptable impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess new activities to determine their impact on resources and other visitors; allow those that have no impact or acceptable impacts and that relate to park resources; separate activities to improve visitor experiences.
Air Tours	28.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursuant to the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000, the National Park Service and the Federal Aviation Administration would work cooperatively to control commercial sightseeing flights over the parks and to protect park values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursuant to the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000, the National Park Service and the Federal Aviation Administration would work cooperatively to control commercial sightseeing flights over the parks and to protect park values.
Private Land and Special Use Permits on Park Land			
<p>Inholdings* (Inholdings are privately owned lands within the parks at Oriole Lake, Wilsonia, and Silver City.)</p>	29.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private inholdings remain. Some properties continue to be purchased from willing sellers when funds are available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively seek to purchase from willing sellers or acquire through donation private inholdings at Oriole Lake and the Mineral King Valley. Private inholdings continue at Wilsonia and Silver City, thereby perpetuating recreation communities. Purchase from willing sellers or acquire through donation properties at Wilsonia and Silver City as opportunities occur.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of trails; where trails are no longer needed, restore areas to natural conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the condition of the existing frontcountry trail system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No administrative, commercial, or private stock use in the parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce commercial and private stock party sizes; disperse and regulate use; designate use areas within the parks. Continue administrative stock use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase commercial and private stock party sizes in some areas; separate stock use and hiking areas. Continue administrative stock use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. except discourage use of nonmotorized watercraft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage winter use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and expand winter use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversify and expand Crystal Cave tours.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict access to other caves to specialists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for guided public access to more caves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a variety of additional cave tours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative but encourage traditional activities and allow new low-impact activities related to park resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
Private Land and Special Use Permits on Park Land		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively seek to purchase private inholdings from willing sellers to allow areas to be returned to natural conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private inholdings continue and thereby perpetuate recreational communities (see descriptions for specific areas). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private inholdings continue with diversified public access (see descriptions for specific areas).

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Special Use Permits <i>(There are three types of special use permits — for hydroelectric power, a Boy Scout camp, and Mineral King permit cabins)</i>	30.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special use permits continue subject to law and regulation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Hydroelectric facilities — Facilities continue to operate until September 8, 2006, and are then removed. ◊ Wolverton Boy Scout camp — See the discussion under Wolverton. ◊ Mineral King permit cabins — See discussion under Mineral King. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special use permits continue subject to law and regulation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Hydroelectric facilities — Facilities continue to operate until September 8, 2006, and are then removed. ◊ Wolverton Boy Scout camp — See the discussion under Wolverton. ◊ Mineral King permit cabins — See discussion under Mineral King.
Adjoining Lands	31.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an informal cooperative relationship with the regional land trust. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate with the regional land trust to find compatible uses for lands that adjoin the parks.
Park Administration and Operations			
Facilities	32.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain existing facilities inside the parks, and complete approved projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign and make existing developed areas more efficient to provide for moderate increases and more diverse uses. Relocate some functions and facilities outside the parks to meet management needs (see specific areas).
Work Camps <i>(bunkhouse, kitchen, restrooms, storage/shop)</i>	33.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a work camp for ranger activities, maintenance, interagency groups, and researchers at Grant Grove. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide work camps near developments for staff, partners, and volunteers to support ranger activities, maintenance, resource protection, interpretation, interagency projects.
Power / Telephone Systems	34.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide electrical power, telephone, and propane systems for developed areas and facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide sustainable and efficient electrical power, telephone, and propane systems for developed areas and facilities.
Water Supplies	35.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> React to growth / water needs by seeking new water sources and creating additional storage. Continue to implement drought plans as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Address additional demand through more efficient use of existing supply and additional storage. Continue to implement drought plans as needed.
Wastewater Systems	36.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade wastewater treatment as necessary to meet requirements and to improve park resource protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade wastewater treatment as necessary to meet requirements and to improve park resource protection.
Powerlines	37.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overhead powerlines remain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underground overhead powerlines where possible.
Park Housing	38.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A limited amount of housing is provided in park developments for some permanent and seasonal employees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A limited amount of housing is provided in park developments for some permanent and seasonal employees.
Transit-Related Housing	39.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate housing to support transit staff outside the parks when it does not fit within existing developed areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate housing to support transit staff outside the parks when it does not fit within existing developed areas.
Roads and Parking Areas	40.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of many roads and parking areas continues to deteriorate; repair roads and parking areas as funding is available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of many roads and parking areas continues to deteriorate; repair roads and parking areas as funding is available.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits for use not continued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative except hydroelectric facilities continue to operate if authorized by Congress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
Park Administration and Operations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce facilities. Move facilities outside the parks as much as possible to allow further natural resource restoration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign some existing facilities to emphasize traditional character and retain most facilities inside the parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign and expand existing developed areas to provide for increased and more diverse uses. When economically feasible, move facilities out of the parks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide work camps near developments for staff, partners and volunteers to support resource protection and facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative A.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Reduced use does not increase demand. Continue to implement drought plans as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Address additional demand with more efficient use of existing supply, additional storage and seeking new water sources. Continue to implement drought plans as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative but reduced use would mitigate the need to upgrade facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<p>Minimal housing is provided near park developments for critical permanent and seasonal employees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate housing to support transit staff outside the parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Wild and Scenic Rivers — Boundaries, Classification, and Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>			
Vision	41.	National wild and scenic rivers are preserved in free-flowing condition, and they and their immediate environments are protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. In managing these rivers, primary emphasis is given to protecting the outstandingly remarkable values of each river segment, including their aesthetic, scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features. The protection of natural river processes is a high priority.	
Carrying Capacity	42.	<p>No intensive use of park rivers occurs or is expected, even with some increased use under some alternatives. Tools for addressing user capacity in wild and recreational segments are defined below. In addition, regulations at 36 CFR Parts 1–6 provide NPS managers tools to control and regulate visitor use of the parks to protect park resources and outstandingly remarkable values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivers classified or eligible as wild — A total of 82.5 miles of designated rivers are in backcountry and designated wilderness; eligible rivers classified as wild would be managed in the same manner. The parks would continue to manage use and impacts on outstandingly remarkable values through backcountry limits such as permits, overnight wilderness quotas, stock party size limits, location restrictions, and area closures. • Rivers classified or eligible as recreational — Visitor use would continue to be limited by the remoteness of the Kings Canyon, management zoning for the floor of Kings Canyon as low-use frontcountry, restricted park development areas, and overnight limitations set by the number of campsites, parking spaces, and lodging rooms. Eligible rivers managed as recreational would also be managed by limiting areas of park development, overnight limitations, and river protection measures (see line 4 of the matrix). 	
<i>Middle Fork of the Kings River</i>			
Segment and Boundary	43.	From the outlet of Lake Helen to park boundary — 29.5 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
Classification	44.	Wild	
Park Zone	45.	Backcountry.	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values*	46.	Scenery — “The upper section encompasses continuous vistas of spectacular high mountain peaks. The river either cascades turbulently down canyons or flows smoothly through lakes and alpine meadows. In the middle section, the river is dominated by very steep, glaciated valley walls, several thousand feet high. At the lower end of this valley, Tehipite Dome rises almost vertically 3,600 feet above the valley floor” (USFS 1982a).	

* The National Park Service based its determination of outstandingly remarkable values for the Middle Fork of the Kings River on the 1991 *Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (USFS 1991b) and subsequent information. Outstandingly remarkable values for the Middle Fork of the Kings River on USFS land outside Kings Canyon National Park were determined to be geologic, botanic, wildlife, fishery, recreation, scenic, and cultural (USFS 1989) The NPS planning/study team in applying methodology for outstandingly remarkable values within Kings Canyon National Park determined that the fishery does not meet the “unique, rare or exemplary” criteria. The populations of fish in the Middle Fork are not nationally or regionally important resident or anadromous populations, and no fish species are threatened or endangered or of notable diversity. Likewise the habitat for fish is not nationally or regionally significant (USFS and NPS 1999).

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<i>Wild and Scenic Rivers — Boundaries, Classification, and Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
<i>Middle Fork of the Kings River</i>		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<p><i>Outstandingly Remarkable Values (cont.)</i></p>		<p>Recreation — Much of the Middle Fork is paralleled by popular wilderness trails, with the upper end accessible by a segment of the John Muir and Pacific Crest Trails. The exceptional and remote alpine scenery provides a variety of high-quality wilderness recreational opportunities, including hiking, climbing, photography, and experiencing solitude.</p> <p>Geology — Tehipite Valley is a classic and spectacular “Yosemite,” having been carved out by glaciation and river erosion. It is among the deepest and most scenic in the contiguous 48 states. Glaciation has resulted in a wide variety of picturesque rock formations along and above the canyon, including domes, horns, arête ridges, cirques, nunatacks, as well as classic U-shaped valleys. Tehipite Dome is a premier example of granitic exfoliation in the United States. In addition to the predominant granite, meta-volcanics are present at high elevations and compose a few peaks in the drainage.</p> <p>Wildlife — With a 6,000-foot change in elevation, native river-dependent wildlife is extremely diverse.</p> <p>Prehistory/History — Before 1900 Indians, shepherders, and a few explorers had entered the region. Tehipite Valley contains Indian village sites that include rock paintings of significance. Other Indian sites probably occur, but have not been catalogued. Muir Pass, just above the river’s source, has a small stone shelter erected about 1930 and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>Vegetation — The area between Tehipite Valley and Simpson Meadow has remarkable stands of sugar pine (some trees are 8 feet in diameter). Where the river slows and broadens, it passes through lush meadows. Populations of insectivorous sundews can be found in Big Pete, Grouse, and the unnamed meadows south of Simpson Meadow; these likely represent elevational range extensions for this taxa. Near Big Pete Meadow the river is lined by Ericaceous vegetation, which is unusually rich in members of the heath family. Mats of blueberry, heather, and Labrador tea emerge from a thick carpet of sphagnum mosses, including a rare species of <i>Helodium</i> unknown elsewhere in California prior. At least three rare plants occur in the drainage — Muir’s Raillardella, Tehipite Jewel flower, and Kings Canyon sedge (USFS 1986).</p>	
<p>River Protection Measures</p>	<p>47.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate water resources projects — Determine whether a proposed project (e.g., fisheries habitat and watershed restoration, bridges and other roadway construction/reconstruction, bank stabilization) would have a direct and adverse impact to the values for which the river was designated, in accordance with section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. • Assess river, floodplain, wetland, and riparian areas — Maintain and enhance the integrated ecological functions to protect and enhance the natural hydrologic and free flow condition of the river. As projects are proposed, assess necessity and impacts of all facilities within the 100-year floodplain. Utilize tiered planning in developing project alternatives. • Restore native ecological processes by reintroducing native plants and animals and removing nonnative species where practicable — Restore native natural ecological elements in river corridors. Ecological restoration is a primary goal of national parks (NPS <i>Management Policies 2001</i>, sec. 4.1.5) • Manage impacts on riverbanks — Use existing controls and develop new controls to minimize riverbank damage caused by stock animals or other backcountry use. 	

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
South Fork of the Kings River*			
Upper Segment of the South Fork Kings River			
Segment and Boundary	48.	From the outlet of Lake 11,599 to wilderness boundary at Copper Creek — 24.1 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
Classification	49.	Wild	
Park Zone	50.	Backcountry.	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values**	51.	<p>Scenery — The headwaters provide exemplary scenery of the classic high Sierra — lake-studded alpine basins. “The entire river corridor is considered as Variety Class A within the landscape character type. Waterfalls, unique geologic formations and a diversity of plant species enhance the characteristics of this free-flowing stream” (USFS 1988).</p> <p>Recreation — The upper reaches (Upper Basin) and middle reaches (Paradise Valley) provide exceptional recreational opportunities and are extremely popular with wilderness users for hiking, photography, and experiencing solitude.</p> <p>Geology — The South Fork flows through spectacular examples of valley glaciation. The Upper Basin contains examples of cirques, arete, and horn development. Deeply glaciated canyons, including the remote Muro Blanco and the picturesque Paradise Valley, present an exceptional and rare string of canyons along the river’s course.</p>	
River Protection Measures	52.	Same as reference number 47.	
Lower Segment of the South Fork Kings River			
Segment and Boundary	53.	From wilderness boundary to park boundary — 7.6 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
Classification	54.	Recreational.	
Park Zones	55.	Low-use frontcountry, with some areas zoned as development.	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values***	56.	<p>Scenery — The spectacular, vertical cliffs, with the river alternately meandering and cascading through the flat-bottomed valley, is world-class scenery.</p> <p>Recreation — River-related recreation, such as water play and swimming.</p> <p>Geology — The Kings Canyon is one of the Sierra Nevada’s rare and best examples of a “Yosemite,” a deep canyon with sheer granite cliff faces on either side of the river valley that rivals the true Yosemite.</p>	

* The Roaring River, a tributary of the South Fork of the Kings River, was not considered as a part of this study. It is wholly within designated wilderness in Kings Canyon National Park. The planning/study team has determined that the Roaring River receives adequate protection from this status.

** The National Park Service based its determination of outstandingly remarkable values for the South Fork of the Kings River on the 1988 *Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (USFS 1988) and subsequent information.

*** The National Park Service based its determination of outstandingly remarkable values for the South Fork of the Kings River on the 1988 *Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (USFS 1988) and subsequent information. Outstandingly remarkable values for the South Fork of the Kings River on USFS land outside Kings Canyon National Park were determined to be geologic, botanic, wildlife, fishery, recreation, scenic, and cultural (USFS 1989). The NPS planning/study team in applying the methodology for outstandingly remarkable values to river sections within Kings Canyon National Park determined that the values of botanic, wildlife, fishery, and cultural do not meet the criteria because there are no “unique, rare or exemplary” taxa as defined in *The Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Process* (USFS and NPS 1999).

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
South Fork of the Kings River		
Upper Segment of the South Fork Kings River		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Lower Segment of the South Fork Kings River		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>River Protection Measures</i>	57.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate water resources projects — Determine whether a proposed project (e.g., fisheries habitat and watershed restoration, bridges and other roadway construction/reconstruction, bank stabilization) would have a direct and adverse impact to the values for which the river was designated, in accordance with section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. • Assess river, floodplain, wetland, and riparian areas — Maintain and enhance the integrated ecological functions to protect and enhance the natural hydrologic and free flow condition of the rivers. As projects are proposed, assess necessity and impacts of all facilities within the 100-year floodplain. Utilize tiered planning in developing project alternatives. During frontcountry campground redesign and rehabilitation projects, determine setbacks from the river to protect river values through floodplain studies. Analyze all bridge and trail projects (frontcountry and backcountry) in accordance with section 7. After a large flood with severe damage, evaluate the restoration of facilities on a case-by-case basis, and determine whether to close, remove, or relocate damaged facilities and to restore the location to natural conditions. • Restore native ecological processes by reintroducing native plants and animals and removing nonnative species where practicable — Restore native natural ecological elements in river corridors. Ecological restoration is a primary goal of national parks (NPS <i>Management Policies 2001</i>, sec. 4.1.5) • Manage river-based recreation — Allow recreational use consistent with management zoning, NPS policy, and the protection of the river values. Manage public use and access to protect the outstandingly remarkable values. Monitor level of use and effects, and take steps to reduce/control use if standards are not being met. Control access points in developed areas in a manner that would minimize impacts on river edge and riparian environments. (Measures could include delineating routes to protect resources, removing resource-damaging routes, using resource protection and wayfinding signs, using fencing to guide pedestrians, and paving trails. Measures could also include managing parking areas and limiting use.) • Prohibit motorized watercraft — Enforce regulations that prohibit the use of motorized watercraft on designated wild and scenic rivers. • Manage stock impacts on riverbanks — Utilize existing controls and develop controls to minimize riverbank resource damage caused by stock use. 	
North Fork of the Kern River*			
Segment and Boundary	58.	From 12,000' just southeast of Harrison Pass to park boundary — 28.9 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
Classification	59.	Wild	
Park Zone	60.	Backcountry.	

* The Kern-Kaweah River was not considered as a part of this study. It is a tributary of the North Fork of the Kern River and is wholly within designated wilderness in Sequoia National Park. The planning/study team has determined that the Kern-Kaweah River receives adequate protection from this status.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
<i>North Fork of the Kern River</i>		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Outstandingly Remarkable Values*	61.	<p>Scenery — “High contrast to visual elements (headwaters to Junction Meadow); long, linear U-shaped valley; the height and steepness of canyon walls; crystal clear water in rapids and small pools; and numerous waterfalls. Again, the total experience is considered outstandingly remarkable” (USFS 1982a).</p> <p>Recreation — Outstanding recreational opportunities, such as hiking, camping, climbing, photography, and opportunities to experience solitude.</p> <p>Geology — The North Fork Kern River canyon is the longest, linear glacially sculpted valley in the Sierra Nevada. The canyon is a rare example of a fault structured river corridor. The canyon contains a regionally unique feature known as Kernbutts (round to elongate granitic knobs) and Kerncols (depressions between the Kernbutts). These features were first identified and named in the Kern Canyon. The river flows in a north-south direction along the Kaweah Peaks Pluton-Kern Canyon Fault.</p> <p>Fish — The North Fork Kern has a rare, and likely the highest, distinct native subspecies of trout in the Sierra Nevada, the Kern River rainbow trout.</p>	
River Protection Measures	62.	Same as reference number 47.	
<i>Eligible and Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers</i>			
<i>South Fork of the San Joaquin River</i>			
Segment and Boundary	63.	From outlet of Martha Lake to park boundary — 11.4 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
Classification	64.	Wild	
Park Zone	65.	Backcountry.	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	66.	<p>Scenery — Spectacular subalpine and alpine scenery with colorful metamorphic rocks, tall cliffs, and cascading waterfalls. Extensive subalpine meadows in a steep walled, glacially eroded canyon surrounded by alpine peaks.</p> <p>Recreation — The adjacent trail provides exceptional hiking and camping opportunities. Excellent opportunities for unconfined recreation such as mountain and rock climbing and for solitude.</p> <p>Geology — The South Fork of the San Joaquin forms below the crest of the Goddard Divide in both granitic and metamorphosed volcanic rocks (Goddard roof pendant). Tributary streams from some of the largest lake basins in the Sierra Nevada form the headwaters. The river flows at the bottom of a spectacular, steep-walled U-shaped canyon formed by glaciation. Outstanding examples of Sierran geology and river erosion are present. There are excellent examples of glacial features and a deeply incised river canyon.</p>	
Current Status of Landownership and Use	67.	Federally owned and administered by the National Park Service. Primary uses are preservation and recreation.	

* The National Park Service based its determination of outstandingly remarkable values on the 1982 *Sequoia National Forest North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study* (USFS 1982) and subsequent information. Outstandingly remarkable values for the North Fork of the Kern River on USFS land outside Sequoia National Park were determined to be geology, vegetation, fisheries, recreation, scenic, and heritage. (USFS 1994). The NPS planning/study team in applying the methodology for outstandingly remarkable values to river sections within Kings Canyon National Park determined that the values of vegetation, fisheries, and heritage do not meet the criteria because there are no “unique, rare or exemplary” taxa as defined in *The Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Process* (USFS and NPS 1999).

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
<i>Eligible and Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers</i>		
<i>South Fork of the San Joaquin River</i>		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Uses and Resources That Would be Enhanced, Curtailed, or Foreclosed</i>	68.	Little if any effect on primary uses in Sequoia National Park because of management to protect and conserve resources. No other uses would be foreclosed or curtailed because of designation. Designation would provide additional long-term protection against downstream water resource projects outside the park that could degrade upstream river corridor quality.	
<i>Manageability to Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>	69.	Ongoing protection of outstandingly remarkable values would be consistent with park management policies.	
<i>Costs for Acquisition and Management</i>	70.	No additional cost.	
<i>Cost Sharing with State and Local Governments</i>	71.	No additional cost.	
Marble Fork of the Kaweah River			
Marble Fork — Upper Segment			
<i>Segment and Boundary</i>	72.	From Lake 10,559 to wilderness boundary just below Tokopah Falls — 4.1 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
<i>Classification</i>	73.	Wild	
<i>Park Zone</i>	74.	Backcountry.	
<i>Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>	75.	Scenery — The scenery is dramatic throughout the reach, from the glacially carved alpine Tablelands to the deeply incised canyon in the foothills. The Tokopah Falls are dominant in the landscape and are classic examples of cascading, free-falling waterfalls. Recreation — Excellent opportunities for backcountry hiking, camping, exploring, and experiencing solitude. Geology — The Marble Fork has its origins on the Tablelands, west of the Great Western Divide and south of the Kings-Kaweah Divide. The Tokopah Falls and Marble Falls are the largest in the region. The entire upper extent of the drainage is in granitic rock, with large open slabs dominating. The Marble Fork has a significant elevation drop from source to its junction with the Middle Fork of the Kaweah, among the steepest in the United States, from 10,000 feet to 2,000 feet in 15 miles.	
<i>Current Status of Landownership and Use</i>	76.	Federally owned and administered by the National Park Service. Primary uses are preservation and recreation.	
<i>Uses and Resources That Would be Enhanced, Curtailed, or Foreclosed</i>	77.	Little if any effect on primary uses in Sequoia National Park because of management to protect and conserve resources. No other uses would be foreclosed or curtailed because of designation. Designation would provide additional long-term protection against downstream water resource projects outside the park that could degrade the upstream river corridor quality.	
<i>Manageability to Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>	78.	Ongoing protection of outstandingly remarkable values would be consistent with park management policies.	

NOTE: The North Fork of the Kaweah River (11.9 miles from the confluence of Stony and Dorst Creeks to the park boundary) was determined not to be eligible as a wild and scenic river because no outstandingly remarkable values were identified. The Bureau of Land Management determined that the portion of the North Fork outside the park is eligible as a scenic and recreational river, with wildlife, cultural, and visual values (BLM 1996).

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Marble Fork of the Kaweah River		
<i>Marble Fork — Upper Segment</i>		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Costs for Acquisition and Management	79.	No additional cost.	
Cost Sharing with State and Local Governments	80.	No additional cost.	
Marble Fork — Lower Segment			
Segment and Boundary	81.	From the wilderness boundary to the confluence with the Middle Fork — 11.2 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
Classification	82.	Recreational	
Park Zone	83.	Backcountry.	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	84.	Scenery — Same as for the upper segment, plus Marble Falls. Recreation — Excellent opportunities for river-based recreation, such as swimming and water play, as well as photography. Geology — The lower reaches contain a textbook example of the U-shaped Tokopah Valley, with river-created, deeply incised and steep canyons through Mesozoic metamorphic rocks. There are rare examples of the river actually flowing through caves at Wild Child and Marble Falls Caves.	
Current Status of Landownership and Use	85.	Federally owned and administered by the National Park Service. Primary uses are preservation and recreation; secondary use is for hydropower generation (impoundment and diversion). While the free-flowing condition and ecological function of the river is affected, the small scale of the impoundment and diversions does not preclude inclusion in the wild and scenic rivers system.	
Uses and Resources That Would be Enhanced, Curtailed, or Foreclosed	86.	Little if any effect on primary uses in Sequoia National Park because of management to protect and conserve resources. No other uses would be foreclosed or curtailed because of designation. Wild and scenic river designation should be considered in conjunction with any renewal or legislation related to hydroelectric facilities. Designation would provide additional long-term protection against downstream water resource projects outside the park that could degrade the upstream river corridor quality.	
Manageability to Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values	87.	Ongoing protection of outstandingly remarkable values would be consistent with park management policies. The only exception could be in the impoundment and diversion area if hydroelectric facilities remained operational.	
Costs for Acquisition and Management	88.	No additional cost.	
Cost Sharing with State and Local Governments	89.	No additional cost.	
Middle Fork of the Kaweah River			
Middle Fork — Upper Segment			
Segment and Boundary	90.	From the confluence of Lone Pine and Hamilton (Deer) Creeks to the wilderness boundary — 10.9 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side.	
Classification	91.	Wild	
Park Zone	92.	Backcountry.	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	93.	Scenery — The Middle Fork is the deepest cut (5,000') of all the forks of the Kaweah (and among the deepest in the Sierra Nevada), providing exceptional and dramatic scenery. The large and dominant granite outcrops of Castle Rocks and Moro Rock are prominent throughout the river corridor. The river flows directly adjacent to a large grove of giant sequoias in Redwood Meadow Grove, with other groves also in the watershed.	

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
<i>Marble Fork — Lower Segment</i>		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
<i>Middle Fork of the Kaweah River</i>		
<i>Middle Fork — Upper Segment</i>		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Current Status of Landownership and Use</i>	94.	Federally owned and administered by the National Park Service. Primary uses are preservation and recreation.	
<i>Uses and Resources That Would be Enhanced, Curtailed, or Foreclosed</i>	95.	Little if any effect on primary uses in Sequoia National Park because of management to protect and conserve resources. No other uses would be foreclosed or curtailed because of designation. Designation would provide additional long-term protection against downstream water resource projects outside the park that could degrade upstream river corridor quality.	
<i>Manageability to Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>	96.	Ongoing protection of outstandingly remarkable values would be consistent with park management policies.	
<i>Costs for Acquisition and Management</i>	97.	No additional cost.	
<i>Cost Sharing with State and Local Governments</i>	98.	No additional cost.	
Middle Fork — Lower Segment			
<i>Segment and Boundary</i>	99.	From the wilderness boundary to the park boundary — 7.6 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
<i>Classification</i>	100.	Recreational	
<i>Park Zone</i>	101.	Backcountry.	
<i>Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>	102.	Scenery — Same as for the upper segment. Recreation — Excellent opportunities for river-based recreation, such as swimming and water play. Occasionally “extreme” kayakers also utilize the lower reaches. Prehistory/History — There is much evidence of occupation by prehistoric peoples — pictographs, village sites, and bedrock mortars, especially in the Hospital Rock and Potwisha areas. Historic resources include the Generals Highway (ca. 1926).	
<i>Current Status of Landownership and Use</i>	103.	Federally owned and administered by the National Park Service. Primary uses are preservation and recreation; secondary use is for hydropower generation (impoundment and diversion). While these impoundments and diversions adversely impact the free-flowing condition and ecological function of the river, the small scale of the facilities does not preclude inclusion in the wild and scenic rivers system.	
<i>Uses and Resources That Would be Enhanced, Curtailed, or Foreclosed</i>	104.	Little if any effect on primary uses in Sequoia National Park because of management to protect and conserve resources. No other uses would be foreclosed or curtailed because of designation. Wild and scenic river designation should be considered in conjunction with any renewal or legislation related to hydroelectric facilities. Designation would provide additional long-term protection against downstream water resource projects outside the park that could degrade the upstream river corridor quality.	
<i>Manageability to Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>	105.	Ongoing protection of outstandingly remarkable values would be consistent with park management policies. The only exception could be in the impoundment and diversion area if hydroelectric facilities remained operational.	
<i>Costs for Acquisition and Management</i>	106.	No additional cost.	
<i>Cost Sharing with State and Local Governments</i>	107.	No additional cost.	

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
<i>Middle Fork — Lower Segment</i>		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
East Fork of the Kaweah River			
East Fork — Upper Segment			
Segment and Boundary	108.	From the 9,000' contour to the 8,000' contour — 1.0 mile. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
Classification	109.	Wild	
Park Zone	110.	Backcountry.	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	111.	<p>Scenery — Scenic features are the dramatic subalpine valley of Mineral King, with extremely colorful and picturesque rock formations. A deeply incised river canyon with views of high peaks.</p> <p>Recreation — Excellent opportunities for hiking, camping, picnicking, photography, and enjoying solitude.</p> <p>Geology — The East Fork forms on the crest of the Great Western Divide, with spectacular granitic peaks. Tributary streams quickly encounter Mesozoic metamorphic rocks in the vicinity of glaciated Mineral King Valley. Glaciation extended to an elevation of 7,000 feet, below which is a deep granitic canyon, extending to and outside the park boundary. The upper U-shaped river canyon (Mineral King Valley) is one of the few glaciated metamorphic landscapes in the Sierra Nevada. This area has a variety of specialized geologic features, including tufa deposits and soda springs, which are rare in the region. Karst features in the area are extensive and notable due to their alpine location. The river then rapidly descends into a steep and deeply incised granite V-shaped canyon, which is essentially inaccessible.</p>	
Current Status of Landownership and Use	112.	Federally owned and administered by the National Park Service. Primary uses are preservation and recreation; secondary use is hydropower generation. While four impoundments above Mineral King Valley adversely impact the free-flowing condition and ecological function of the river, the small-scale facilities do not preclude the inclusion of the East Fort in the system.	
Uses and Resources That Would be Enhanced, Curtailed, or Foreclosed	113.	Little if any effect on primary uses in Sequoia National Park because of management to protect and conserve resources. No other uses would be foreclosed or curtailed because of designation. Wild and scenic river designation should be considered in conjunction with any renewal or legislation related to hydroelectric facilities on East Fork tributaries. Designation would provide additional long-term protection against downstream water resource projects outside the park that could degrade the upstream river corridor quality.	
Manageability to Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values	114.	Ongoing protection of outstandingly remarkable values would be consistent with park management policies. The only exception could be in the impoundment area if hydroelectric facilities remained operational.	
Costs for Acquisition and Management	115.	No additional cost.	
Cost Sharing with State and Local Governments	116.	No additional cost.	
East Fork — Center Segment			
Segment and Boundary	117.	From the 8,000' contour to the Atwell Mill trail bridge (~5,800') — 5.2 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
Classification	118.	Recreational	
Park Zone	119.	Backcountry.	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	120.	<p>Scenery — The scenic river canyon changes abruptly from a U-shaped valley to a deeply incised V-shaped canyon with crashing cascades. Dramatic peaks and ridges are visible from the river's edge.</p> <p>Recreation — Excellent opportunities for hiking, picnicking, and photography.</p>	

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
East Fork of the Kaweah River		
<i>East Fork — Upper Segment</i>		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
<i>East Fork — Center Segment</i>		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Current Status of Landownership and Use</i>	121.	Federally owned and administered by the National Park Service, except for the Disney and Kaweah Han inholdings which are proposed for acquisition or easement. Primary uses are preservation and recreation.	
<i>Uses and Resources That Would be Enhanced, Curtailed, or Foreclosed</i>	122.	Little if any effect in Sequoia National Park because of management to protect and conserve resources. No other uses would be foreclosed or curtailed. Additional long-term protection against downstream water resource projects outside the park that could degrade the upstream river corridor quality.	
<i>Manageability to Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>	123.	Ongoing protection of outstandingly remarkable values would be consistent with park management policies.	
<i>Costs for Acquisition and Management</i>	124.	No additional cost.	
<i>Cost Sharing with State and Local Governments</i>	125.	No additional cost.	
East Fork — Lower Segment			
<i>Segment and Boundary</i>	126.	From the Atwell Mill trail bridge (~5,800') to the park boundary — 8.0 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
<i>Classification</i>	127.	Wild	
<i>Park Zone</i>	128.	Backcountry.	
<i>Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>	129.	Scenery — The deeply incised canyon presents a wild and rugged scene with high mountain peaks.	
<i>Current Status of Landownership and Use</i>	130.	Federally owned and administered by the National Park Service. Primary uses are preservation and recreation.	
<i>Uses and Resources That Would be Enhanced, Curtailed, or Foreclosed</i>	131.	Little if any effect on primary uses in the park because of management to protect and conserve resources. No other uses would be foreclosed or curtailed. Additional long-term protection from downstream projects outside the park that could degrade the upstream river corridor quality.	
<i>Manageability to Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>	132.	Ongoing protection of outstandingly remarkable values would be consistent with park management policies.	
<i>Costs for Acquisition and Management</i>	133.	No additional cost.	
<i>Cost Sharing with State and Local Governments</i>	134.	No additional cost.	

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
East Fork — Lower Segment		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
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Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
South Fork of the Kaweah River			
Segment and Boundary	135.	From the outlet of Green Meadow to the bridge above the South Fork campground — 11.4 miles. Boundary extends 0.25 mile on each side of the river.	
Classification	136.	Wild	
Park Zone	137.	Backcountry.	
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	138.	<p>Scenery — Giant sequoia groves, including Garfield and South Fork Groves, are close to the river; the montane scenery is frequently interspersed by large meadows. Spectacular scenic canyons, with frequent waterfalls and cataracts.</p> <p>Geology — The South Fork of the Kaweah originates west of the Great Western Divide. It consolidates on the granitic and relatively low-elevation Hockett Plateau, then flows through a steep granitic canyon to areas of Mesozoic metamorphic marine rocks near the park boundary. Prominent depositional terraces line the river in its lower reach. The South Fork Canyon has been cut by glaciation and river erosion. The South Fork is an example of a “captured stream,” whose pre-glacial course was notably altered by glaciation. Several examples of karst topography, among them Clough Cave are present.</p>	
Current Status of Landownership and Use	139.	Federally owned and administered by the National Park Service. Primary uses are preservation and recreation.	
Uses and Resources That Would be Enhanced, Curtailed, or Foreclosed	140.	<p>Little if any effect on primary uses in Sequoia National Park because of management to protect and conserve resources. No other uses would be foreclosed or curtailed.</p> <p>Additional long-term protection against downstream water resource projects outside the park that could degrade the upstream river corridor quality.</p>	
Manageability to Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values	141.	Ongoing protection of outstandingly remarkable values would be consistent with park management policies.	
Costs for Acquisition and Management	142.	No additional cost.	
Cost Sharing with State and Local Governments	143.	No additional cost.	

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
South Fork of the Kaweah River		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Backcountry / Wilderness			
Vision <i>Most stressors to the backcountry are regionwide, such as air pollution and climate change, rather than from activities within the parks.</i>	144.	<i>Up to 96.10% of the parks are designated wilderness or backcountry areas that are managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. The parks' backcountry and wilderness areas continue to have a variety of permitted activities and commercial operations. Existing facilities remain.</i>	<i>Up to 96.10% of the parks are designated wilderness or are compatible with management as wilderness. Resource conditions in the parks' backcountry and wilderness areas are improved. Facilities are evaluated for usefulness and compatibility with wilderness, and additional facilities are considered only in the nonwilderness backcountry.</i>
Zones	145.	<i>A mix of major and secondary trails and cross-country areas.</i>	<i>A mix of major and secondary trails and cross-country areas.</i>
Carrying Capacity	146.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management zoning continues current use limits in the backcountry, with the majority of use occurring in the major trails zone. Continue the daily trailhead quota system based on existing backcountry travel patterns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise trailhead/zone quota system in <i>Wilderness Management Plan</i> as needed based on monitoring of wilderness character, wild and scenic rivers, outstandingly remarkable values, and travel patterns to protect resources and visitor experiences
Areas Managed as Wilderness			
Hockett Plateau*	147.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to manage to preserve wilderness characteristics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible with management as wilderness. Explore a small non-wilderness backcountry exclusion (less than 40 acres) for a high Sierra camp.
Redwood Canyon*	148.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to manage to preserve wilderness characteristics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible with management as wilderness.
North Fork of the Kaweah*	149.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to manage to preserve wilderness characteristics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible with management as wilderness.
Chimney Rock*	150.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to manage to preserve wilderness characteristics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible with management as wilderness.
Mineral King Area*	151.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral King areas found suitable for wilderness (except immediate road corridor and present development). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral King areas found suitable for wilderness (except road corridor and present development).
Potential Wilderness	152.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate areas at Bearpaw and Oriole Lake as wilderness if facilities are removed per the California Wilderness Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate areas at Bearpaw and Oriole Lake as wilderness if facilities are removed per the California Wilderness Act.

*Wilderness studies that could lead to wilderness designation are not part of this plan. They are being undertaken separately by the parks. Wilderness designation would require recommendations to Congress by the secretary of the interior and the president, followed by congressional legislation.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Backcountry / Wilderness		
<p>Up to 96.11% of the parks are designated wilderness or are compatible with management as wilderness. Resource conditions in the parks' backcountry and wilderness areas are improved. Visitor use is reduced from the present; social conflicts are reduced while there are more opportunities for solitude; high-impact activities are eliminated (e.g., no campfires), and facilities are removed where feasible.</p>	<p>Up to 96.09% of the parks are designated wilderness or are compatible with management as wilderness. Resource conditions in the parks' backcountry and wilderness areas are improved in some places. Party sizes and use levels are limited and dispersed, reducing the need for onsite regulation. Most commercial and park facilities remain.</p>	<p>Up to 89.37% of the parks are designated wilderness or are compatible with management as wilderness. The parks' backcountry and wilderness areas have improved conditions in some places. Party sizes and use levels are higher than under alternative C, with greater levels of onsite regulation. Uses are separated and may be concentrated in high-use areas. Additional facilities may be added in the nonwilderness backcountry if needed.</p>
<p>More secondary trails and cross-country areas. Fewer major trails.</p>	<p>A mix of major and secondary trails and cross-country areas.</p>	<p>More major trails.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce backcountry visitation and designate more secondary trails and cross-country zones to disperse backcountry use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate more major trail zones, resulting in more wilderness use than now.
Areas Managed as Wilderness		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible with management as wilderness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage Hockett Plateau as nonwilderness backcountry.**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible with management as wilderness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible with management as wilderness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness designation compatible for the North Fork area except for the Colony Mill Road trail corridor.**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible with management as wilderness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Chimney Rock area as nonwilderness backcountry. Provide for historic camps.**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No facilities removed, so potential wilderness areas not designated as wilderness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C.

**Changes in management could affect wilderness characteristics. "The National Park Service will take no action that would diminish the wilderness suitability of an area possessing wilderness characteristics until the legislative process has been completed" (NPS Management Policies, sec. 6.3.1).

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Historic Structures	153.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve historic ranger cabins, Smithsonian Institution shelter (Mount Whitney shelter), Pear Lake ski hut, and other structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve or rehabilitate historic ranger cabins, Smithsonian Institution shelter (Mount Whitney shelter), Pear Lake ski hut, and other structures.
	154.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve and / or stabilize the Shorty Lovelace Historic District cabins or allow them to molder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve and / or stabilize the Shorty Lovelace Historic District cabins or allow them to molder.
	155.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate some trails to determine their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate some trails to determine their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, plus provide historic trails information.
Visitor Use and Facilities			
Backcountry Use	156.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain current quotas for backcountry use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the backcountry quota system as needed for resource protection while accommodating sustainable levels of use.
	157.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Party size limits determined in the current 1986 <i>Backcountry Management Plan</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine party size limits through a revised wilderness and backcountry management plan.
Trail System	158.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the current backcountry trail system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a flexible backcountry trail system, with the ability to reconsider application of trail and trailless zones.
	159.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with volunteer groups to maintain and improve the trail system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with volunteer groups to maintain and improve the trail system.
Stock Use	160.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue administrative, commercial, and private stock use under current NPS restrictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue administrative, commercial, and private stock use under current NPS restrictions. Expand grazing studies and use data to manage grazing.
Commercial Pack Stock Operations	161.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide for commercial pack operations headquartered in the parks; number of operations headquartered outside the parks not limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial pack operations limited and managed to protect park resources. Refine commercial stock use permit system for resource protection.
High Sierra Camps (commercial concession)	162.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the commercial concession high Sierra camp at Bearpaw. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the high Sierra camp at Bearpaw and study feasibility of a camp in a nonwilderness backcountry area within the Hockett Plateau.
Park Administration and Operations			
Backcountry Facilities	163.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain backcountry ranger stations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess backcountry ranger stations and replace or rehabilitate as necessary.
Helicopter Use	164.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue current emergency and administrative helicopter use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit emergency and administrative helicopter use to minimum necessary for managing wilderness and backcountry.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative, but record structures, then allow to deteriorate if not needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow Shorty Lovelace Historic District cabins to molder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
Visitor Use and Facilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce backcountry use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify the quota system as needed for resource protection; disperse use in small groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit increase in amount of use and concentrate in major trail corridors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce party size. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for different party sizes, both large and small, in different places and at different times.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the trail system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reopen and upgrade abandoned trails and build some new ones.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the condition of remaining trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No stock use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce commercial and private stock party size, disperse and regulate use; designate use areas within the parks. Continue administrative stock use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase commercial and private stock party size in some areas; separate stock use and hiking areas. Continue administrative stock use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No pack operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cap growth of commercial pack operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more commercial pack operations to enhance backcountry and wilderness access.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the high Sierra camp at Bearpaw. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus add high Sierra camps in nonwilderness backcountry areas within the Hockett Plateau.
Park Administration and Operations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Kings Canyon National Park</i>			
<i>Cedar Grove and the Floor of the Kings Canyon</i>			
Vision <i>The Kings Canyon is a glacially carved deep canyon with waterfalls, lush meadows, campgrounds, and commercial facilities, as well as popular backcountry access.</i>	165.	<i>The Kings Canyon is visited mostly by campers and hikers who come to enjoy the area's quiet or by persons passing through the area to access the backcountry. Cedar Grove village is a low-use area with an extended season.</i>	<i>The identity of the Kings Canyon is strengthened and enhanced, but the area remains less visited and quieter than Grant Grove or Giant Forest. Visitors come to see the canyon's special features. The basic character of camping and wilderness / backcountry access remains. Cedar Grove village is made more efficient and offers a modestly greater variety of overnight accommodations. The area's season includes more spring and fall time.</i>
Zones	166.	Low-use frontcountry with park development.	Low-use frontcountry with park development.
Cultural Resources			
Historic Resources	167.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve Knapp's cabin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve Knapp's cabin.
Visitor Facilities	168.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate roads, facilities, and structures for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate roads, facilities, and structures for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.
Transportation and Circulation			
Kings Canyon Highway (California 180)	169.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain present seasonal highway access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the California Department of Transportation to keep the highway open longer in the spring and fall.
Visitor Use and Facilities			
Visitor Facilities	170.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a small visitor services area, including the ranger contact station, backcountry permit station, lodge, store, food service, RV dump station, and the pack station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a visitor center. Redesign or modestly expand lodging facilities to provide some variety in lodging; maintain the pack station; no RV dump station.
Frontcountry Trails	171.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the trail network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the condition of the trail network.
Backcountry Access	172.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue access to the existing system of trailheads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue access to the existing system of trailheads.
Picnicking	173.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated picnic areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide formal picnic areas.
Bicycle Use	174.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue bicycle use on park roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate bicycle use by providing designated bicycle routes and bike lanes on the highway. Close much of the River Road to public motorized vehicles.
River Access	175.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue unlimited access to the Kings River and tributaries at developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define access points along the Kings River and tributaries with trails and guides to reduce bank damage from increased use.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Kings Canyon National Park		
Cedar Grove and the Floor of the Kings Canyon		
<p>Same as the no-action alternative except the focus is on resource preservation, facilities at Cedar Grove village are reduced in number, and visitation is less than at present.</p>	<p>The identity of the Kings Canyon is strengthened and enhanced, but the area remains less visited and quieter than Grant Grove or Giant Forest. Visitors come to see the canyon's special features. The traditional character of camping and backcountry access remains. Cedar Grove village is enlarged slightly and offers a greater variety of overnight accommodations. The area's season is lengthened to include more spring and fall time.</p>	<p>The Kings Canyon becomes a major park feature equal to Grant Grove or Giant Forest, with visitors drawn by the area's strong identity as the "quiet Yosemite." Backcountry access remains an important function. The area's season is lengthened to include more spring and fall time. Cedar Grove village is expanded to provide improved opportunities for more camping and lodging.</p>
<p>Low-use frontcountry with less park development.</p>	<p>Low-use frontcountry with slightly more park development.</p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p>
Cultural Resources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow Knapp's cabin to molder. • Same as the no-action alternative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. • Same as the no-action alternative.
Transportation and Circulation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
Visitor Use and Facilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide no visitor center. Remove lodging, the RV dump station, and the pack station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a visitor center. Add rustic guest cabins adjacent to the lodge; enhance food service; and maintain the RV dump station and the pack station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a visitor center. Redesign or expand lodging facilities to provide some variety in lodging; maintain the pack station; remove the RV dump station.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the trail network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the condition of the trail network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional short day hiking or loop trails to increase variety for visitors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional access points to backcountry trails and interpret these with signs and guides. Develop a new Roaring River trail.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative plus increase picnic opportunities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate bicycle use by providing bike lanes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit access to the Kings River and tributaries to minimize bank damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define access points along the Kings River and tributaries with trails and guides to reduce bank damage from increased use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harden access points and control circulation to reduce bank damage from increased use.

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
	176.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit all watercraft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit all watercraft to preserve the quality of the riparian corridor (natural quiet and riverbank vegetation)..
	177.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow summer season water play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow summer season water play.
Campgrounds <i>(Relocate campsites >100' from the river to protect river values in wild and scenic river plan)</i>	178.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain four campgrounds, all with amenities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign campgrounds with fewer sites and to better meet the needs of separate user groups (RV, tents only, quiet areas); provide walk-in or bike-in campsites; provide larger sites for families and small groups; allow some sites to be reserved.
Park Administration and Operations			
Operations Areas	179.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace maintenance and operations areas as needed, with replacement locations assessed for less resource impacts and improved sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace maintenance and operations areas as needed, with replacement locations assessed for less resource impacts and improved sustainability.
Work Camps	180.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work camps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a work camp at Lewis Creek.
Residential Areas	181.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the housing area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the housing area. Remove housing from all of the "Picnic Estates" area.
Utilities	182.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue operation of utility systems; upgrade as necessary to meet standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue operation of utility systems; upgrade as necessary to meet standards.
Bridges	183.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace Cedar Grove Village bridge (and other bridges as needed) as needed, with replacement locations assessed for less resource impacts and improved sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace Cedar Grove Village bridge (and other bridges as needed), with replacement locations assessed for less resource impacts and improved sustainability.
Grant Grove			
Vision <i>Grant Grove is a pristine sequoia grove with the world's third largest tree (the General Grant Tree) and the previously logged Big Stump Grove.</i>	184.	<i>Grant Grove continues as a very popular destination, with a highly visited sequoia grove. Grant Grove village offers day and overnight activities, mixed with other park development and uses. Circulation and congestion problems remain.</i>	<i>Grant Grove continues as a very popular destination, with a highly visited sequoia grove. Grant Grove village offers day and overnight activities. Incompatible visitor and operational functions are separated. Facility development and use are limited to be consistent with sustainable water and sewer capacity. Circulation is redesigned and improved to reduce congestion.</i>
Zones	185.	<i>A large park development zone along with a mix of both low- and high-use frontcountry.</i>	<i>A large park development zone along with a mix of both low- and high-use frontcountry.</i>
Cultural Resources			
Historic Resources	186.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptively reuse historic structures in the village. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptively reuse historic structures in village.
	187.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve the Redwood Mountain residence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptively reuse the Redwood Mountain residence.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow nonmotorized watercraft when safe water conditions permit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. • Redesign campgrounds with fewer sites and more space between sites; designate some campgrounds as walk-in and “quiet areas” for tents only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. • Redesign campgrounds to better accommodate family groups; provide two small additional primitive campgrounds along the River Road; provide trailhead and backpacker campsites at road’s end; allow some sites to be reserved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. • Same as the preferred alternative.
Park Administration and Operations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce park operations areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a work camp at Lewis Creek. • Minimize housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative • Infill the housing area. Relocate some housing from the “Picnic Estates” area. Provide a volunteer camp at Lewis Creek. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. • Expand and further separate the housing and operations areas from one another. Remove housing from all of the “Picnic Estates” area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
Grant Grove		
<p><i>Grant Grove continues as a popular destination, with a highly visited sequoia grove. More of the area is returned to natural conditions, with fewer commercial facilities.</i></p>	<p>Grant Grove continues as a very popular destination, with a heavily visited sequoia grove. Grant Grove village becomes a large destination village, with facilities redesigned for more day and overnight use and improved circulation. Overlapping and incompatible uses are separated, and circulation and congestion problems are addressed.</p>	<p><i>Similar to alternative C except Grant Grove village is expanded, with more facilities for day and overnight use, and congestion problems are addressed by providing new facilities.</i></p>
<p><i>Less extensive park development, some high-use frontcountry, and expanded low-use frontcountry.</i></p>	<p><i>Slightly more park development, more high-use frontcountry, and less low-use frontcountry.</i></p>	<p><i>Similar to alternative C except more park development.</i></p>
Cultural Resources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve historic structures in village area that can be adaptively reused for essential services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record and remove the Redwood Mountain residence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert the Redwood Mountain residence to a nature center or environmental education camp.

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
	188.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve historic resources at Grant Tree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve historic resources at Grant Tree.
<i>Cultural Landscape</i>	189.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the nomination of Big Stump Basin to identify cultural resource values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the nomination of Big Stump Basin to identify cultural resource values.
<i>Wilsonia Historic District</i>	190.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain NPS historic structures in the historic district. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve or adaptively reuse NPS buildings contributing to the historic status. Update the <i>Land Protection Plan</i> to acknowledge the national register status of the Wilsonia Historic District.
Transportation and Circulation			
<i>Entrance Station</i>	191.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain and upgrade the entrance station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign or relocate the entrance station to facilitate traffic flow.
<i>Traffic, Parking, and Circulation</i>	192.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain traffic, parking, and circulation systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign village roads, intersections, and parking areas for improved circulation.
<i>Access to Hume Lake</i>	193.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary route to Hume Lake Camp is through Grant Grove village via California Highway 180. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirect Hume Lake traffic through Quail Flat (10-mile road).
<i>Transit</i>	194.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess viability for local transit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess viability for local transit.
	195.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue parkwide transportation planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue parkwide transportation planning.
<i>Grant Tree Area</i>	196.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue parking at the Grant Tree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue parking at the Grant Tree with some redesign.
<i>Redwood Saddle / Redwood Mountain</i>	197.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue low levels of vehicular access on the Redwood Mountain Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue low levels of vehicular access on the Redwood Mountain Road.
Visitor Use and Facilities			
<i>Educational Facilities</i>	198.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the visitor center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign and expand the visitor center. • Consider the gas station for a potential visitor facility.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eventually record and remove the NPS cabins in the Wilsonia Historic District. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve or adaptively reuse NPS buildings for public use; or record and remove NPS cabins, and provide needed public facilities.
Transportation and Circulation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the Big Stump entrance station and provide entrance stations at Cedar Grove and Lost Grove to facilitate traffic flow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign the entrance station to facilitate traffic flow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate the entrance station outside the park to facilitate traffic flow.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No upgrades required for traffic, parking, and circulation systems because of reduced use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign village roads, intersections, and parking areas for improved circulation and greater capacity while accommodating bicycle use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C plus accommodate tour buses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirect Hume Lake traffic through Quail Flat (10-mile road). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A plus request that state transfer the California Highway 180 designation to the Quail Flat road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divert traffic around Grant Grove with a bypass on Giant Sequoia National Monument land. Close California Highway 180 from Grant Grove junction to north boundary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No local transit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a voluntary local transit system to reduce traffic and parking congestion, with staging and maintenance near the Wye. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement an extensive voluntary day use transit system, with access to Big Stump, Grant Tree, and national monument destinations. Develop a staging area close to the relocated visitor center.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No transit needed because of reduced use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a shuttle between local overnight locations (Hume, USFS campgrounds, Montecito-Sequoia). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide shuttle service from Grant Grove to Giant Forest.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce parking at the Grant Tree to improve resource conditions and visitor experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign the Grant Tree area to improve visitor experiences and provide summer season transit stops and accessible parking and trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage use of the Redwood Mountain Road and the trails it accesses. Provide highway signs to direct visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pave the Redwood Mountain Road and encourage use of it and the trails it accesses through better guides and signs.
Visitor Use and Facilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign the visitor center as needed • Convert the gas station to history museum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate the visitor center to the Wye area to create space for future village services and to make access easier for park visitors.

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Trail System</i>	199.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the current trail system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade the trail system, providing signs and guides. Connect with trails in Giant Sequoia National Monument (Converse Basin and areas to the east). Provide an enhanced, self-guided trail system for Grant Grove and the surrounding area.
<i>Big Stump Basin</i>	200.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage as a recovering giant sequoia grove, with many of the stumps gradually hidden in vegetation, reducing the visual impact of logging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage to maintain visible logging history, as well as to illustrate a recovering giant sequoia grove.
	201.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a self-guided trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a self-guided trail.
<i>Park Ridge Lookout</i>	202.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiking and bicycle access to the lookout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiking and bicycle access to the lookout
<i>Picnicking</i>	203.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide picnic areas at Big Stump and Columbine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate day use by converting part of Crystal Springs to picnic area, and the remainder to day use parking; picnicking continues at Big Stump and Columbine.
<i>Stock Corral</i>	204.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the corral. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the corral.
<i>Campgrounds</i>	205.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain current camping areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign campgrounds to accommodate use patterns, and reduce the number of campsites and their resource impacts. Convert Crystal Spring to day use and encourage the U.S. Forest Service to expand camping opportunities in adjacent Giant Sequoia National Monument.
<i>RV Dump Station</i>	206.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No RV dump station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No RV dump station.
<i>Other Services</i>	207.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the store, restaurant, gift shop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the store, restaurant, gift shop.
	208.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand lodging per concession contract, with a traditional mix of rustic cabins and lodges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand lodging per concession contract, with a traditional mix of rustic cabins and lodges.
	209.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No gas station provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No gas station provided.
<i>Winter Use</i>	210.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain winter use at current levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain snowplay areas and extend cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails. Encourage more concession equipment rentals.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of hiking trails and restore areas where trails are removed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the trail system, emphasizing high trail standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to the preferred alternative except expand the trail system.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage to maintain visible logging history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. Allow public vehicle / bicycle use of the road to the lookout.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal picnic areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase picnicking facilities and convert the Crystal Spring campground to a picnic area. Urge additional Giant Sequoia National Monument picnic spaces.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the corral. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the corral and provide public parking at the corral site.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign campgrounds to reduce the number of campsites and resource impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign campgrounds to improve the experience and to reduce the number of campsites (provide more space between sites), and/or provide for more day use and picnicking. Make Crystal Springs a quiet, tents-only campground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative A, except convert Crystal Spring to day use and encourage the U.S. Forest Service to expand camping opportunities in adjacent Giant Sequoia National Monument.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a dump station at the gas station or recommend at Giant Sequoia National Monument site.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. Reduce the amount of lodging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. Expand the quantity and variety of lodging available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. Same as the no-action alternative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. Expand snowplay areas and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a gas station near the Wye. Same as the preferred alternative.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Private Land and Special Use Permits on Park Land			
<i>Wilsonia*</i> (inholding)	211.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire properties on a willing-seller / willing-buyer basis only when funding is available or resources are threatened. Remove structures not contributing to the historic district and return sites to natural conditions after acquisition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recreational community continues private residential uses. Adaptively reuse NPS-owned historic buildings through the historic leasing program for seasonal staff residences, public lodging, or concession housing. Remove nonhistoric NPS structures and restore the areas. Acquire properties on a willing-seller / willing-buyer basis when funding is available or resources are threatened. Septic constraints could limit adaptive reuse.
<i>Snowmobile Use</i> (NPS Management Policies prohibit snowmobiles in the parks)	212.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowmobiles are allowed on private land / roads in Wilsonia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowmobiles are allowed on private land / roads in Wilsonia.
Park Administration and Operations			
<i>Work Camps</i>	213.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Swale fire crew housing / work camp. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Swale fire crew housing / work camp. Consider expansion for volunteer work crews. Explore option to co-locate fire facilities on monument lands.
<i>Residential Areas</i>	214.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain current levels of housing and park operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain current housing and park operations; expand housing inside or outside the park if needed and sustainable.
<i>Water Supplies</i>	215.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> React to growth / needs by establishing new storage. Implement drought plans as needed to ensure an adequate water supply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an in-depth watershed study as part of the update of the <i>1984 Water Resources Management Plan</i> to determine water availability, springwater recharge, and groundwater availability. Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Address additional demand through more efficient use of existing supply and additional storage. Implement drought plans as needed to ensure an adequate water supply.
<i>Wastewater Systems</i>	216.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade wastewater treatment as necessary to meet requirements and to improve protection of park resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade wastewater treatment as necessary to meet requirements and to improve protection of park resources.

* Inholdings in Wilsonia are privately owned lands within the park.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Private Land and Special Use Permits on Park Land		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek funds and acquire structures from willing sellers; remove all NPS-owned structures and private structures as they are acquired; restore the area to natural conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to preserve a private recreational community; continue private residential uses; adaptively reuse NPS-owned historic buildings through the historic leasing program for seasonal staff residences, public lodging, or concession housing. Remove nonhistoric NPS structures and restore the areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Wilsonia either <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the residential recreational community by permitting commercial use, with vacant lots to be infilled; repair or replace nonhistoric NPS structures for adaptive use; build a sewer system; and change the current regulations to allow lodging. or Expand and diversify public use by acquiring all structures to support park recreation needs (such as parking, shuttle staging, picnicking, or camping).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No snowmobiles allowed after inholdings are purchased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
Park Administration and Operations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative, plus add capacity for other park operational needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move housing and operations out of park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand housing and operations near the existing residential and operations areas if needed and sustainable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand housing and operations to support increased visitor services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an in-depth watershed study as part of the update of the 1984 <i>Water Resources Management Plan</i> to determine water availability, springwater recharge, and groundwater availability. Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources (no increased demand due to reduced use). Implement drought plans as needed to ensure an adequate water supply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. Same as the preferred alternative plus seek new water sources outside the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need to increase sewer and wastewater systems because of reduced use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand wastewater treatment as necessary to meet requirements and to improve protection of park resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Sequoia National Park			
Dorst / Halstead Meadow / Cabin Creek			
Vision Dorst, Halstead Meadow, and Cabin Creek are within a forested area of open evergreen stands, meadows, and small sequoia groves.	217.	<i>The Dorst area provides camping and some facilities along the Generals Highway. It serves as the trailhead to Muir Grove.</i>	<i>The Dorst area provides diverse camping opportunities and some facilities along the Generals Highway. It serves as the trailhead to Muir Grove.</i>
Zones	218.	Park development (campground with amenities) surrounded by low-use frontcountry and backcountry .	Park development (campground with amenities) surrounded by low-use frontcountry and backcountry .
Historic Structures	219.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabin Creek structures adaptively reused as seasonal residences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabin Creek structures adaptively reused as seasonal residences.
Lost Grove	220.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the Lost Grove comfort station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the Lost Grove comfort station.
	221.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the Lost Grove interpretive wayside on Generals Highway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the Lost Grove interpretive wayside on Generals Highway.
Transit	222.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No transit in area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore transit if need develops.
Trails	223.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain trails to Muir Grove, Lost Grove, and Little Baldy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better define trails to Muir Grove, Lost Grove, and Little Baldy; improve signs to reduce resource damage; remove unplanned trails created by visitors. Develop links to backcountry trails and connecting trails to USFS / Giant Sequoia National Monument areas.
Pack Station / Stock Stable	224.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No commercial pack station or riding stables available. No trailhead support for pack and saddle stock available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine four locations (Dorst/Halstead/Cabin Creek, Wuksachi, Lodgepole, and Wolverton) to find a single suitable site for a commercial pack station / day ride operation to replace the Wolverton pack station. Use the following criteria: convenience for visitors and operators; no major, adverse resource impacts; and reasonable development / operation costs for the government and the operator. Conduct an economic/business feasibility analysis of operations. If economically feasible, prepare a site analysis and physical plan for the most suitable site.
Picnicking	225.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the Halstead Meadow picnic area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the Halstead Meadow picnic area.

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<i>Sequoia National Park</i>		
<i>Dorst / Halstead Meadow / Cabin Creek</i>		
<i>The Dorst area provides less front-country camping with improved resource conditions and visitor experiences.</i>	Same as the no-action alternative.	Similar to the no-action alternative with more opportunities for visitors.
A smaller amount of park development (campground with amenities) and more backcountry .	Park development (campground with amenities) surrounded by low-use frontcountry .	Park development (campground with amenities) surrounded by both low- and high-use frontcountry .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record and remove structures and restore Cabin Creek site to natural conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove Lost Grove wayside. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide shuttle bus stops in area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better define trails to reduce resource damage; remove unplanned trails created by visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative A plus improve sign and better define trailheads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative C plus add short trails to disperse use; develop links to backcountry trails and connecting trails to USFS / Giant Sequoia National Monument areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No pack station (no stock use in park). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the Halstead Meadow picnic area and return to natural conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative plus add picnic sites at or near Halstead Meadow and Suwanee Creeks to disperse/accommodate more use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative C.

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Dorst Campground	226.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Dorst campground sites and the RV dump station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign some campsites at Dorst campground to better meet the needs of diverse user groups; remove the RV dump station.
Transitory Storage Area	227.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the Dorst pit for transitory storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the Dorst pit for transitory storage.
Wuksachi			
Vision <i>Wuksachi is a new developed area set amid rocky outcrops and surrounded by evergreen forest.</i>	228.	<i>Wuksachi village provides year-round facilities for lodging and food service, plus residential and park operations areas in accordance with the concession contract.</i>	<i>Wuksachi village provides year-round facilities for lodging and food service, plus residential and park operations areas in accordance with the concession contract.</i>
Zones	229.	Park development (village) adjacent to backcountry .	Park development (village) adjacent to backcountry .
Cultural Resources	230.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve the Clover Creek bridge (a national register property). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve the Clover Creek bridge (a national register property).
Transit	231.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service by means of Giant Forest transit system with constructed shuttle stops is planned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service by means of Giant Forest transit system with constructed shuttle stops is planned.
Visitor Educational Programs and	232.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide small number of ranger naturalist programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase traditional ranger naturalist programs.
Visitor Facilities	233.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an amphitheater for NPS interpretive programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an amphitheater for NPS interpretive programs.
Use Season	234.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year-round use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year-round use.
Trails	235.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain trails to Lodgepole. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add new trails from Wuksachi to Little Baldy and J.O. pass junction.
Pack Station / Stock Stables	236.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No commercial pack station or riding stables available. No trailhead support for pack and saddle stock available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine four locations (Dorst/Halstead/Cabin Creek, Wuksachi, Lodgepole, and Wolverton) to find a single suitable site for a commercial pack station / day ride operation to replace the Wolverton pack station. Use the following criteria: convenience for visitors and operators; no major, adverse resource impacts; and reasonable development / operation costs for the government and the operator. Conduct an economic/business feasibility analysis of operations. If economically feasible, prepare a site analysis and physical plan for the most suitable site.
Winter Use	237.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some equipment rental and assistance with winter recreational activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support winter recreational activities at Wuksachi.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the number of Dorst campground sites to improve the visitor experience and resource conditions; remove the RV dump station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign some campsites at the Dorst campground to better meet the needs of diverse user groups; retain the RV dump station. Add a camper store to provide basic supplies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the storage area and return to natural conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
Wuksachi		
<p>Same as the no-action alternative.</p>	<p>Same as the no-action alternative.</p>	<p>An expanded Wuksachi village provides diverse day and overnight uses, including picnic areas, trails, a traditional mix of overnight facilities (lodges and cabins), and food service, plus areas for residential purposes and park operations.</p>
<p>Same as the no-action alternative.</p>	<p>Same as the no-action alternative.</p>	<p>A larger park development (village) adjacent to backcountry.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative plus provide a diverse array of educational opportunities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three-season use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three-season use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add new trails to Little Baldy and J.O. Pass junction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No pack station (no stock use in park). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No winter use. 	<p>Same as alternative A.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative plus groom some trails for skiing.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Other Services</i>	238.	• Provide lodging, gift shop, and restaurant (up to the present concession contract limits).	• Provide lodging, gift shop, and restaurant (up to the present concession contract limits).
<i>Gas Station</i>	239.	• No gas station.	• No gas station.
<i>Red Fir Maintenance Area</i>	240.	• Continue to use Red Fir as the maintenance site for the area.	• Continue to use Red Fir as the maintenance site for the area.
<i>Transit Support</i>	241.	• Designate Red Fir as the interim location for light maintenance functions for the Giant Forest transit system. (Provide heavy maintenance outside the park.)	• Designate Red Fir as the interim location for light maintenance functions for the Giant Forest transit system. (Provide heavy maintenance outside the park.)
<i>Wuksachi Residential Area</i>	242.	• Retain a limited residential area.	• Meet park and concession residential needs.
<i>Water Supplies</i>	243.	• Unused water capacity would accommodate planned expansion of Wuksachi village. Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Address planned expansion through more efficient use of existing supply.	• Unused water capacity would accommodate the planned expansion of Wuksachi village. Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Address planned expansion through more efficient use of existing supply.
<i>Wastewater Systems</i>	244.	• Upgrade wastewater treatment systems as necessary to meet requirements and to improve protection of park resources.	• Upgrade wastewater treatment systems as necessary to meet requirements and to improve protection of park resources.
Lodgepole			
<i>Vision</i> <i>Lodgepole lies within the beautiful Tokopah Canyon of the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. The Tokopah Falls trail is a popular day hike.</i>	245.	<i>Lodgepole is a very popular campground with amenities, the dominant day-use commercial site, a river recreation site, a wilderness trailhead, and a principal employee residential area, all near one another.</i>	<i>Lodgepole is a very popular campground with amenities, the dominant day-use commercial site, a river recreation site, a wilderness trailhead, and a principal employee residential area. Lodgepole offers expanded day activities and services, while continuing to provide overnight camping. Incompatible park and visitor functions are separated.</i>
<i>Zones</i>	246.	Park development (campground, village, park operations, and residential) surrounded by both low- and high-use frontcountry.	Park development (campground, village, residential, and some park operations) more high-use front-country.
<i>Historic Resources</i>	247.	• Evaluate facilities for historic status.	• Preserve historic buildings that can be adaptively reused. Allow relocated and new infill housing.
	248.	• Preserve the Marble Fork bridge.	• Preserve the Marble Fork bridge.
<i>Traffic, Parking, and Circulation</i>	249.	• Maintain existing parking and circulation (day use parking lot remains in the middle of the campground).	• Redesign roads and parking to separate day and overnight uses, improve resource conditions, increase efficiency of day use parking, and facilitate traffic flow.
<i>Transit</i>	250.	• Provide a shuttle stop.	• Provide a shuttle stop.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus encourage expanded facilities if needed to meet demand.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a gas station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlarge residential area to meet park and concession staff needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative but reduced use could mitigate the need to upgrade facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
Lodgepole		
<p><i>Lodgepole provides reduced levels of day use and campgrounds that are separated from operations.</i></p>	<p><i>Lodgepole is redesigned and expanded, with an emphasis on overnight use. Day uses are relocated to other areas, and incompatible uses are separated.</i></p>	<p><i>Lodgepole offers expanded day activities and services, while continuing to provide overnight camping. Incompatible uses are separated.</i></p>
<p>Less park development (campground, village, residential, and park operations); some high-use frontcountry.</p>	<p>Park development (campground, village, and residential) with more high-use frontcountry.</p>	<p>Park development (campground, village, and some park operations) more high-use frontcountry.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve historic buildings that can be adaptively reused. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A, but allow relocated and new infill housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record and remove housing area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the size of parking areas and redesign to improve resource conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign village roads and parking areas to facilitate traffic flow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to the preferred alternative except relocate and expand day use parking.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Visitor Use and Facilities			
<i>Visitor Educational Programs and Facilities</i>	251.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the visitor center and the nature center in the campground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the visitor center and develop new thematic exhibits and programs with a wilderness emphasis. Remove the nature center.
<i>Trails</i>	252.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide trails to Tokopah, Wuksachi, Wolverton, and Giant Forest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide trails to Tokopah, Wuksachi, Wolverton, and Giant Forest; improve trail conditions.
<i>Picnicking</i>	253.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a small picnic area west of the Generals Highway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a small picnic area west of the Generals Highway.
<i>River Access</i>	254.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue unlimited access to the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define river access points to protect riverbanks from the impacts of increased use; allow water play.
<i>Pack Station / Stock Stables</i>	255.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No commercial pack station or riding stables available. No trailhead support for pack and saddle stock available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine four locations (Dorst/Halstead/Cabin Creek, Wuksachi, Lodgepole, and Wolverton) to find a single suitable site for a commercial pack station / day ride operation to replace the Wolverton pack station. Use the following criteria: convenience for visitors and operators; no major, adverse resource impacts; and reasonable development / operation costs for the government and the operator. Conduct an economic/business feasibility analysis of operations. If economically feasible, prepare a site analysis and physical plan for the most suitable site.
<i>Winter Use</i>	256.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the cross-country ski center and winter rentals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an activity center and rentals as needed at Wuksachi, Lodgepole, or Wolverton.
<i>Campgrounds (Relocate campsites >100' from river to protect river values in wild and scenic river plan)</i>	257.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to rebuild portions of the campground to improve resource conditions and the camping experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign the campground to further separate sites from day uses; provide hike-in sites; provide larger sites for family groups; keep portions of the campground open year-round.
	258.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional campsites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional campsites.
	259.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the Log Bridge campground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the Log Bridge campground.
	260.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide winter camping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide winter camping.
	261.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sites may be reserved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sites may be reserved.
<i>RV Dump Station</i>	262.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RV dump station retained unless it cannot be upgraded to comply with state regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RV dump station retained unless it cannot be upgraded to comply with state regulations.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<i>Visitor Use and Facilities</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move visitor center functions and education to the Giant Forest museum. Remove the nature center. Provide only administrative functions at Lodgepole. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move visitor center functions and education to the Giant Forest museum. Remove the nature center but add some educational and nature activities at the shuttle stop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a nature center. Assess the need for a visitor center; retain administrative functions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus improve trail conditions in the Lodgepole area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C plus convert the Tokopah Falls trail to a loop on both sides of the river. Redesign the Tokopah Falls trailhead.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert the Log Bridge campground to a day use and picnic area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit trail access to a few areas to improve and protect riparian resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harden access points and control circulation to reduce bank damage from increased use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No pack station (no stock use in park). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No winter activity center or rentals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign and reduce the number of campsites to improve resource conditions and the camping experience. Provide more hike-in sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of campsites to improve resource conditions and the camping experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as no action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly provide campsites at nature center, ice rink site, and parking area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert the Log Bridge campground to a day use and picnic area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide winter camping somewhere in the Giant Forest / Lodgepole area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half of sites available for reservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the RV dump station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Other Visitor Services</i>	263.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain current visitor services (food service, supplies, showers, public laundry, and post office). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide visitor services focused on meeting day use (expand food service) and overnight user needs (supplies, post office, showers, public laundry).
	264.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain nature center, unused ice rink site, and parking area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove ice rink site, and parking area; include these areas in a redesigned campground or return to natural conditions.
	265.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gas station no longer operational. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No service station function; rehabilitate building to meet rustic guidelines. Consider a self-service gas pump at the market.
Park Administration and Operations Areas			
<i>Administrative Functions</i>	266.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain administrative functions in the visitor center building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain administrative functions in the visitor center building, assess visitor center.
	267.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain emergency vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocate park emergency service to the Wuksachi fire station.
<i>Work Camp</i>	268.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work camp provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work camp provided
<i>Residential Areas</i>	269.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain limited permanent staff housing and continue to provide seasonal housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign residential area. Construct year-round housing, including dormitory for volunteers and short-term staff, as well as facilities for permanent staff.
<i>Transit Support</i>	270.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide no transit support facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide transit support at Wolverton.
<i>Water Supplies</i>	271.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> React to growth / water needs by seeking new water sources and creating additional storage. Continue to implement drought plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Address additional demand through more efficient use of existing supply and additional storage. Continue to implement drought plans.
<i>Wastewater Systems</i>	272.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade wastewater treatment as necessary to meet requirements and to improve protection of park resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade wastewater treatment as necessary to meet requirements and to improve protection of park resources.
Wolverton			
<i>Vision</i> <i>Wolverton is a large, open meadow in a forested valley.</i>	273.	<i>Wolverton provides summer picnicking, winter activities, day-hiking trails, and a backcountry trailhead.</i>	<i>Wolverton provides the main day-use staging area for Giant Forest shuttles, plus backcountry access; winter uses are expanded.</i>
<i>Zones</i>	274.	A mix of low- and high-use frontcountry.	Slightly more high-use frontcountry.
<i>Historic Resources</i>	275.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate residence and restroom structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate residence and restroom structures.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove visitor services (food service, supplies, showers), and post office; restore area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide visitor services focused on meeting overnight user needs (supplies, post office, showers, public laundry). Convert the visitor center to natural history association sales, food service, and nature center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide visitor services focused on meeting day user needs; expand food service. Remove post office.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove nature center, ice rink site, and parking area; return to natural conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convert nature center and ice rink site to seasonal lab and bunk facilities for visiting researchers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative A.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No gas station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No gas station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a gas station.
<i>Park Administration and Operations Areas</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the visitor center building to meet administrative needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the visitor center building to meet administrative and concession needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocate park emergency service to Red Fir. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a work camp. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative A.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain limited staff housing area and replace some seasonal housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand residential area. Construct year-round housing dormitory for volunteers and short-term staff / seasonal staff in the residential area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocate housing to the Wuksachi / Red Fir area. Convert the housing area to shuttle staging and light maintenance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide transit support at Wolverton. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convert the housing area to a light maintenance and staging facility for shuttles.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Reduced use does not increase demand. Continue to implement drought plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Address additional demand with more efficient use of existing supply, additional storage, and seeking new water sources. Continue to implement drought plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative but reduced use would mitigate the need to upgrade facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<i>Wolverton</i>		
<p><i>Wolverton is the main day-use staging area for Giant Forest shuttles. It also functions as a summer and winter trailhead.</i></p>	<p><i>Wolverton provides the main day-use staging area for Giant Forest shuttles. Backcountry access and winter uses are expanded.</i></p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p>
<p>Slightly more low-use frontcountry.</p>	<p>Same as the preferred alternative.</p>	<p>More high-use frontcountry.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record and remove structures. Remove remaining elements of former ski area and dam, and restore to natural function. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move residence to Lodgepole housing area. Record and remove other structures if they cannot be adaptively reused or rehabilitated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record and remove structures if they cannot be adaptively reused or rehabilitated.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Traffic, Parking, and Circulation	276.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As described in the 1996 <i>Interim Management Plan</i>, use as an overflow parking and staging area for shuttle access to Giant Forest destinations. Provide a new parking area closer to the Sherman Tree. Provide shuttle access to the backcountry trailhead at Crescent Meadow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As described in the 1996 <i>Interim Management Plan</i>, use as an overflow parking and staging area for shuttle access to Giant Forest destinations. Provide a new parking area closer to the Sherman Tree. Provide shuttle access to the backcountry trailhead at Crescent Meadow.
Hiking	277.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide trailhead for day use trails to General Sherman Tree and Lodgepole, and backcountry trails to Pear Lake and Alta Meadow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide trailhead for day use trails to General Sherman Tree and Lodgepole, and backcountry trails to Pear Lake and Alta Meadow.
Picnicking	278.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain picnic area in parking lot island. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide limited picnic area to support shuttle and trailhead users.
Pack Station / Stock Stables	279.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No commercial pack station or riding stables available. No trailhead support for pack and saddle stock available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine four locations (Dorst/Halstead/Cabin Creek, Wuksachi, Lodgepole, and Wolverton) to find a single suitable site for a commercial pack station / day ride operation to replace the Wolverton pack station. Use the following criteria: convenience for visitors and operators; no major, adverse resource impacts; and reasonable development / operation costs for the government and the operator. Conduct an economic/business feasibility analysis of operations. If economically feasible, prepare a site analysis and physical plan for the most suitable site.
Winter Use at Wolverton	280.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate as a winter snow play area with concession support buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate increased winter use; evaluate need for winter use facilities. Enhance and expand opportunities for various activities, separating activities such as snow-play, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.
Other Services	281.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain restrooms, warming hut, snack bar, ranger hut, and concession building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace existing facilities as needed, and provide limited food service.
Boy Scout Camp	282.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the permit Boy Scout camp. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convert the Boy Scout camp to a camp for park volunteers and permit Boy Scout use as possible.
Park Administration and Operations Areas			
Long Meadow	283.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the residence and storage warehouse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the residence; remove the storage warehouse.
Residential Areas	284.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide no volunteer housing at Wolverton. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide seasonal volunteer / residential camp in the area of the Wolverton Boy Scout camp, while accommodating continued Boy Scout use.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus construct a 1,700-car parking garage (proposed in the 1980 <i>Giant Forest / Lodgepole Development Concept Plan</i>) to greatly increase the day use parking capacity; provide shuttle service between Giant Forest and Grant Grove.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide trailhead and parking at Wolverton for High Sierra Trail to improve resource conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A plus redefine and simplify summer and winter day use trails to make them easier to follow; improve backcountry trailheads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No picnic facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide limited picnic area to support shuttle and trailhead users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No pack station (no stock use in park). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No facilities for winter use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative plus expand cross-country skiing opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C plus expand winter concession services / rentals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain restrooms. Remove concession building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace existing facilities as needed, and provide expanded food service.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the permit Boy Scout camp and restore the area to natural conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert the Boy Scout camp to a camp or work center for park volunteer groups
Park Administration and Operations Areas		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove residence and storage warehouse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a campground for park volunteer groups near the water treatment facility or the Boy Scout camp.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Transit Facilities</i>	285.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate permanent light maintenance facilities outside the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate light maintenance facility for transit at the former Wolverton stables site; incorporate sustainable water-saving measures.
<i>Water Supplies</i>	286.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Address new demand of transit maintenance facility through recycled water use and storage.
<i>Wastewater Systems</i>	287.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade wastewater treatment systems as necessary to meet requirements and improve protection of park resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade wastewater treatment systems as necessary to meet requirements and improve protection of park resources.
Giant Forest			
<i>(The following actions are compatible with the 1996 Giant Forest Interim Management Plan, which proposes the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. The actions would be the same under all the alternatives.)</i>			
<i>Vision</i>	288.	<p><i>The giant sequoia grove at Giant Forest remains Sequoia National Park's primary day use feature. The grove, site of a major restoration effort, illustrates the premiere, naturally functioning giant sequoia ecosystem, with 6 of the 10 largest trees in the world, meadows, and abundant wildlife. The desired visitor experience is a walk in the woods to see the Big Trees. Visitors focus on the Giant Forest museum / Big Trees Trail area, the General Sherman Tree, Moro Rock, and Crescent Meadow. The extensive trail system is retained. Private vehicular access to the grove is retained but is limited by parking capacities; during peak-use periods some roads and/or parking areas are closed and replaced by shuttle system access.</i></p>	
<i>Zone</i>	289.	High-use frontcountry.	
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	290.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two historic districts have been recorded and removed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office to protect the sequoia trees. The Giant Forest market building is being adaptively reused as a museum. The district ranger residence and restrooms have been rehabilitated and preserved. The Moro Rock staircase, Cattle cabin, Squatters cabin, and Tharp's Log have been preserved and interpreted. Named trees are protected from further trampling around their bases. 	
<i>Transit and Circulation</i>	291.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide mandatory shuttle service to Moro Rock and Crescent Meadow during peak-use periods; during shoulder seasons, allow private vehicles to access Moro Rock. Provide shuttle stops at features. 	
<i>Visitor Parking</i>	292.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide limited year-round visitor parking at the <i>Giant Forest museum</i> and the General Sherman Tree. 	
<i>Trail System</i>	293.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the existing trail system, removing only those short sections that have been made obsolete as a result of removing commercial facilities; upgrade and rehabilitate where necessary. Harden trail surfaces when it is determined that heavy use requires such action. Improve trailhead information and maintain good trail system signing. Expand the number of trails accessible to disabled users. 	
<i>Giant Forest Visitor Facilities</i>	294.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the <i>Giant Forest museum</i>, interpretive waysides, shuttle stops, residence, education center, restrooms at the museum area, museum overflow parking, Big Trees Trail at Round Meadow, Moro Rock, Crescent Meadow, Sherman Tree, and trail centers. No food service provided. 	
<i>Interpretation / Education</i>	295.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Giant Forest museum</i> provides visitor information desk. Provide self-guiding interpretive opportunities at the museum, along the adjoining Big Trees and Hazelwood trails, and along the Congress Grove trail. 	

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a light maintenance facility at Lodgepole.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
Giant Forest		
<p>Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.</p>		
<p>Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives. Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.</p>		
<p>Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.</p>		
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	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
	296.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ranger/naturalist interpretive services at key locations in the grove. 	
Beetle Rock Recreation Hall	297.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptively reuse Beetle Rock as a year-round, day-use only center that provides a site for park-related educational activities. 	
Picnicking	298.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a picnic area at Pinewood. 	
Winter Use	299.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. 	
Water Supply	300.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide water from the Wolverton system for museum complex, Sherman Tree, and Pinewood picnic area. At Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow, limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. 	
Wastewater Systems	301.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater systems in place for the museum complex, Beetle Rock education center, Sherman Tree, Pinewood picnic area, Moro Rock, and Crescent Meadow. Vault toilets at Lower Sherman Tree and Big Trees Trail. Systems to be upgraded or replaced as necessary to meet regulatory requirements. 	
Powerline	302.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace underground cross-country powerline through Giant Forest with new line under Crescent Meadow / Moro Rock road corridor. 	
Park Operations	303.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support Giant Forest park operations from Lodgepole / Red Fir. 	
Crystal Cave			
Vision	304.	<i>Crystal Cave provides the primary public opportunity to experience the parks' significant cave resources.</i>	<i>Crystal Cave provides the primary public opportunity to experience the parks' significant cave resources.</i>
Zone	305.	High-use frontcountry.	High-use frontcountry.
Cave Tours	306.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a variety of tours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a variety of tours
Restrooms	307.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain restrooms near parking lot but provide no restrooms at cave. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain restrooms near parking lot and provide restrooms at cave if technology makes it feasible.
Water, Wastewater, and Electricity Systems	308.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue operation of small, onsite water, wastewater, and electricity systems; upgrade as necessary to meet standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue operation of small, onsite water, wastewater, and electricity systems; upgrade as necessary to meet standards or to improve resource protection.
Ash Mountain / Foothills			
Vision <i>The foothills of Sequoia National Park represent some of the best protected foothill wildlands in the Sierra Nevada, featuring blue oak woodlands, chaparral, riparian corridors, and abundant wildlife.</i>	309.	<i>Low levels of year-round visitor use are accommodated. The Ash Mountain area is the parks' primary administrative and operations center, and it provides some seasonal and permanent residences.</i>	<i>Increased levels of recreational use are accommodated primarily along the Middle and North Forks of the Kaweah River. The Ash Mountain area is the parks' primary administrative and operations center. The area continues to have some seasonal as well as permanent residences for essential personnel. A partnership is developed with the gateway community to meet park needs and to retain the character of a small, rural community.</i>

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
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Same as the no-action and preferred alternatives.		
Crystal Cave		
<i>The visitor experience at Crystal Cave is improved by reducing use.</i>	<i>Same as the no-action alternative.</i>	<i>Additional types of tours are offered to provide for diverse visitor experiences.</i>
<i>Same as the no-action alternative.</i>	<i>Same as the no-action alternative.</i>	<i>Same as the no-action alternative.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce group size on cave tours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the number and types of tours.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
Ash Mountain / Foothills		
<p><i>Limited levels of recreational use are accommodated primarily along the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River. Park operations and residential areas are relocated outside the park, and sites are restored, improving area resource conditions.</i></p>	<p><i>Increased levels of recreational use are accommodated primarily along the Middle and North Forks of the Kaweah River. The Ash Mountain area is the parks' primary administrative and operations center, The area continues to have some seasonal as well as permanent residences for essential personnel.</i></p>	<p><i>Same as alternative C.</i></p>

	Reference No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Zones	310.	<i>Park development (operations and residential areas) surrounded by low-use frontcountry; some high-use frontcountry.</i>	<i>Park development (operations and residential areas), with a mix of low- and high-use frontcountry.</i>
Cultural Resources			
<i>Ethnographic Resources</i>	311.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve Hospital Rock and Potwisha ethnographic resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve Hospital Rock and Potwisha ethnographic resources.
<i>Historic Resources</i>	312.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve Tunnel Rock, park entrance sign, and CCC era work along the Generals Highway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve Tunnel Rock, park entrance sign, and CCC era work along the Generals Highway.
	313.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue Ash Mountain and Sycamore CCC camp historic districts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue Ash Mountain and Sycamore CCC camp historic districts.
	314.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve three CCC era buildings including the recreation hall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve three CCC era buildings including the recreation hall.
	315.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the historic Colony Mill Road as a trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the historic Colony Mill Road as a trail.
	316.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydroelectric facilities (#3 flume) eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the behest of Southern California Edison. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydroelectric facilities (#3 flume) eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the behest of Southern California Edison.
<i>Collections Storage</i>	317.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep museum collection in headquarters building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand collections storage; improve facility to meet museum standards.
Transportation and Circulation			
<i>Traffic, Parking, and Circulation</i>	318.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain existing parking areas at the Foothills visitor center and the picnic area (at capacity or congested during high use times). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign existing parking areas at the Foothills visitor center, the administration, and the picnic area to increase capacity and reduce congestion.
<i>Transit</i>	319.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No foothills transit. Continue to assess parkwide transit feasibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to assess parkwide transit feasibility. Seek public transit service to various park areas and surrounding communities, serving public, staff, and concession transit needs.
Visitor Use and Facilities			
<i>Visitor Use</i>	320.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodate current levels of visitation, with visitors primarily passing through to other areas of the parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide concentrated use areas from Buckeye Flat to Ash Mountain, with Hospital Rock as a feature; provide additional recreational opportunities in other foothills areas.
<i>Visitor Educational Programs and Facilities</i>	321.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the Foothills visitor center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the Foothills visitor center within the current building to meet visitor demand.
	322.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cooperative information with outside partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities with outside partners for orientation, education and management.

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<i>Less park development, more low-use frontcountry and backcountry.</i>	<i>Park development (operations and residential areas), with slightly more high-use frontcountry.</i>	<i>Park development (operations and residential areas), with more high-use frontcountry and additional facilities in low-use frontcountry.</i>
Cultural Resources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus provide additional opportunities to learn about Native American culture.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “Residential Areas” (reference numbers 338–40). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record and remove the recreation hall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “North Fork” topic (reference number 345). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as no-action alternative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as no-action alternative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as no-action alternative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
Transportation and Circulation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced parking demand with less use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlarge parking areas to meet increased demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide parking at new visitor center facility.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop employee shuttles to reduce staff parking demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek public transit service to various park areas and surrounding communities, serving public, staff, and concession transit needs.
Visitor Use and Facilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced levels of visitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand day use and camping opportunities fall through spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to the preferred alternative plus provide more picnicking.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct a new visitor center or enlarge the existing building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build new foothills visitor center at the Potwisha staging area or outside the park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.

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<i>Hiking</i>	323.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the limited frontcountry trail system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop or restore trails for expanded winter and shoulder season use, including stock and bicycling opportunities; develop loop trails. Reconstruct the Hospital Rock to Buckeye Flat trail footbridge. Provide hiking opportunities along former hydroelectric access ways.
<i>Picnicking</i>	324.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the picnic area at the Foothills visitor center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign the picnic area at the Foothills visitor center to better accommodate day use.
	325.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the Hospital Rock picnic area and public restrooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the Hospital Rock picnic area and public restrooms.
<i>Bicycling</i>	326.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow bicycles only on park roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to allowing bicycles on park roads, designate Shepherd Saddle Road as a bike trail.
<i>Stock Use</i>	327.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide limited private recreational stock opportunities in the South Fork and North Fork areas. No commercial stock use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate sustainable stock use with improved access, trails / trail-heads and primitive campgrounds.
<i>River Access</i>	328.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide parking near popular river access points along various forks of the Kaweah. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide parking at sustainable locations near popular river access points along various forks of the Kaweah.
	329.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow water play and swimming when water conditions are safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow water play and swimming when water conditions are safe.
	330.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonmotorized watercraft allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonmotorized watercraft allowed.
<i>Campgrounds</i>	331.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the campground at Buckeye Flat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the campground at Buckeye Flat.
	332.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign the Potwisha campground for its current use level and continue winter camping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign the Potwisha campground for its current use level, and continue winter camping.
<i>Shepherd Saddle</i>	333.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Shepherd Saddle Road as a service road closed to public motor vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Shepherd Saddle Road as a service road that can be used for public equestrian and bicycle use.
	334.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping opportunities.
Special Use Permits			
<i>Hydroelectric Facilities</i>	335.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities continue to operate until September 8, 2006, and are then removed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities continue to operate until September 8, 2006, and are then removed.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore past recreational uses by improving the condition of the trail network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign the area currently occupied by the Foothills visitor center / administration building for day use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to allowing bicycles on park roads, designate Colony Mill Road and Shepherd Saddle Road as bike trails.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No administrative, commercial, or private stock use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage private and commercial recreational stock use. Accommodate sustainable stock use with improved access, trails, and primitive campgrounds, but limit party size. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to C with diverse party size, plus develop primitive equestrian campgrounds in the Sycamore and North Fork areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus restrict trail access to a few areas to improve and protect riparian resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A, but define and possibly harden river access points. Develop a day-use river access parking area near Potwisha. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit nonmotorized watercraft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the Potwisha campground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative, plus interpret Native American use of the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the Potwisha campground to provide a site for a visitor center and picnic area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert Shepherd Saddle Road to a trail and stabilize to improve resource conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate the Shepherd Saddle Road as a motor nature trail to the North Fork area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop primitive camping opportunities for bicyclists and stock users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C, plus develop an equestrian group camp near Sycamore Creek. Provide stock support at campground (hitch posts).
Special Use Permits		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities continue to operate if authorized by Congress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.

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Park Administration and Operations			
<i>Park Functions</i>	336.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue overlapping administration, park operations, and residential uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocate some Ash Mountain administrative / managerial functions outside the park when beneficial. Retain some critical park management and operations in the park.
<i>Administrative Stock Facilities</i>	337.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue use of historic corral complex to support administrative stock operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue use of historic corral complex to support administrative stock operations.
<i>Administrative Pastures</i>	338.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain administrative pasture in most of area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease size of the administrative pasture to protect resources. Explore benefits of light (reduced) grazing to sustain some native plant species.
<i>Work Camps</i>	339.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No foothills work camp. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a work camp at Cricket Hollow.
<i>Residential Areas</i>	340.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain housing in upper Ash Mountain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain housing in upper Ash Mountain.
	341.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain trailer sites at Sycamore. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove Sycamore trailer sites.
	342.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Buckeye housing area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Buckeye housing area.
<i>Water Supplies</i>	343.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> React to growth / needs by seeking new water sources and providing additional storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Address additional demand through more efficient use of existing supply and additional storage.
<i>Wastewater Systems</i>	344.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade wastewater treatment as needed to meet requirements and to improve protection of park resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade wastewater treatment as needed to meet requirements and to improve protection of park resources.
Other Foothills Areas			
<i>North Fork of the Kaweah</i>	345.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain small parking area and trailhead with no facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct a primitive trailhead campground for stock users and manage cooperatively with the adjacent BLM recreational lands. Provide infrastructure to support a ranger presence.
	346.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to purchase Alley property in the North Fork drainage and make a related boundary adjustment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to purchase Alley property in the North Fork drainage and make a related boundary adjustment.
	347.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Colony Mill Road as a trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Colony Mill Road as a trail.
<i>South Fork of the Kaweah</i>	348.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the South Fork campground and trailhead at its current size. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the South Fork campground and trailhead at its current size.
	349.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited stock use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide improved stock support at trailhead (hitch posts, trailer parking).

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Park Administration and Operations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocate all Ash Mountain administrative functions outside the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain administrative functions on site and replace as needed; separate residential, administrative, and operational functions. Provide for expanded operational functions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new administration building at lower Ash Mountain to consolidate staff. Provide for expanded operational functions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptively reuse historic corral building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptively reuse historic corral building for park operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative A plus relocate NPS corrals and administrative stock pasturing outside park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No grazing. Provide a protected foothill riparian ecosystem at Sycamore Creek for visitor to experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce administrative pasture to protect resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No administrative use of area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a work camp. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain minimum housing necessary and locate in upper Ash Mountain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide seasonal and required housing in upper Ash Mountain.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove Buckeye housing area and replace with operations facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as alternative A.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. No increased demand because of reduced use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative plus seek new water sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
Other Foothills Areas		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve trailhead and partner to improve road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct a primitive North Fork campground for both stock users and bicyclists and manage cooperatively with the adjacent BLM recreational lands. Provide a ranger residence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate Colony Mill Road as a bike trail.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convert the South Fork campground to a trailhead with campsites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign the South Fork campground for various user groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No stock use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as the preferred alternative.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Mineral King			
Vision <i>Mineral King Valley represents an extraordinary and spectacular experience in the Sierra Nevada because of its unusual metamorphic geology and appearance.</i>	350.	<i>Mineral King Road continues to provide access to recreational cabins, a small resort, campgrounds, and the alpine backcountry. Low levels of visitor services and activities are accommodated along the corridor. Special use cabins are removed in accordance with legislation to restore the natural appearance and environment.</i>	<i>Mineral King Road continues to provide access to the alpine backcountry, public recreation, campgrounds, and Silver City private cabins and resort. Qualities that made the road corridor eligible for listing on the national register are maintained and preserved, while the road corridor provides increased public recreational access to the alpine backcountry and historic resources. Slightly higher levels of public use are accommodated. As special use permits expire, permit cabins are acquired and adaptively reused for public purposes.*</i>
Zones	351.	<i>A low-use frontcountry corridor surrounded by backcountry, with park development (small village, limited operations and residential areas).</i>	<i>A mix of low- and high-use frontcountry with park development (less residential, operations, but with some village development).</i>
Cultural Resources			
Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District <i>(Under act of Congress, cabin permits cannot be extended beyond the lifetimes of the permittees of record (1978), with cabin removal required at end of term.)</i>	352.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District, consisting of the road corridor and contributing elements. Record and remove permit cabins, including some historic structures contributing to the historic landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District by preserving the road corridor and contributing elements. Develop a plan for preservation and adaptive reuse for public lodging in consultation with the state historic preservation officer. • Emphasize the variety of historical themes associated with the landscape district (such as logging, mining, hydroelectric power generation, recreational cabin areas, and national park evolution).

* The National Park Service would partner with a nonprofit or commercial services organization to provide public lodging or other public use. A plan would be developed for public uses, including limited use by former permittees. The plan would address treatment methods to preserve the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District, sustainable use, code compliance, needed utilities, self-sustaining funding, maintenance, and potential hazardous materials mitigation. It would also develop a decision tree for management in case of a natural disaster.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Mineral King		
<p>Mineral King Road provides access to the alpine backcountry. Lower levels of visitor services and activities are accommodated along the corridor. Special use permit cabins are removed in accordance with legislation, and sites are returned to natural conditions.</p>	<p>Mineral King Road continues to provide access to recreational cabins, a small resort, and the alpine backcountry. The visual character of the historic road corridor is preserved. Slightly higher levels of public use are accommodated. Special use permit cabins are preserved to exemplify a recreation community in Sequoia National Park.*</p>	<p>Mineral King Road continues to provide access to recreational cabins, a small resort, campgrounds, and the alpine backcountry. Qualities that made the road corridor eligible for listing on the national register are maintained and preserved, while the road corridor provides increased public recreational access to the alpine backcountry and historic resources. Slightly higher levels of public use are accommodated. Selected special use permit cabins contributing to the landscape district are acquired and preserved for interpretation and educational use.</p>
<p>More backcountry and low-use frontcountry with less park development (operations and residential areas).</p>	<p>Same as the no-action alternative with slightly more park development (residential and limited operations) and low-use frontcountry.</p>	<p>A mix of low- and high-use frontcountry with park development (less residential, operations, but more village development).</p>
Cultural Resources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District by preserving the road corridor and contributing elements. Utilize a memorandum of agreement with the Mineral King Preservation Society to protect contributing elements of the landscape district. • Emphasize the theme of a recreation community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative except preserve only selected examples of contributing recreation cabin structures (in consultation with the state historic preservation officer).

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>NPS Historic Structures</i>	353.	• Stabilize and preserve NPS historic facilities.	• Stabilize and preserve NPS historic facilities.
	354.	• Preserve Atwell Mill and the Alles cabin.	• Preserve Atwell Mill and the Alles cabin, plus use the Alles cabin to illustrate the conservation movement in the Mineral King area.
	355.	• Moldering mining remnants may be seen.	• Moldering mining remnants may be seen.
<i>Lookout Point</i>	356.	• Preserve the historic Lookout Point residence.	• Preserve the historic Lookout Point residence.
Transportation and Circulation			
<i>Mineral King Road</i>	357.	• Maintain the road character (alignment and width) but continue to pave additional sections to reduce maintenance and resource damage. Improve road drainage to prevent erosion. Discourage RVs and trailers.	• Maintain the road character (alignment and width) but continue to pave additional sections to reduce maintenance and resource damage. Improve road drainage to prevent erosion. Limit vehicle length on the road.
<i>East Mineral King Trailhead Parking</i>	358.	• Current trailhead parking areas on private land (see "Mineral King Private Land and Special Use Permits on Park Land").	• Redesign trailheads and parking areas to improve circulation; allow minor expansion.
Visitor Use and Facilities			
<i>Educational Programs and Facilities</i>	359.	• Provide for low levels of day use and interpretation in the Atwell sequoia grove; provide a backcountry trailhead.	• Provide for higher levels of day use; provide more interpretive services and displays. Manage the Atwell sequoia grove to better interpret the logging story.
<i>Trails</i>	360.	• Retain the trail system, with major backcountry trailheads providing access to all directions.	• Retain the trail system, with major backcountry trailheads providing access to all directions.
<i>Stock Pack Station</i>	361.	• Retain the pack station at its present location.	• Relocate the pack station to improve resource conditions.
<i>Winter Use</i>	362.	• Road not plowed; limited parking at gate; winter use facilities not provided; winter use includes informal cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.	• Road not plowed; limited parking at gate; winter use facilities not provided; winter use includes informal cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
<i>Campgrounds</i> (Relocate campsites > 100' from river to protect river values in wild and scenic river plan)	363.	• Maintain the Atwell Mill campground without improvements.	• Close the Atwell Mill campground to remove all campgrounds from sequoia groves and restore the area to natural grove ecology (provide more primitive camping opportunities in Mineral King Valley).
	364.	• Retain current camping levels at the Cold Spring campground.	• Expand camping in the vicinity of the Cold Spring campground and West Mineral King cabin sites. Designate a portion of camp for groups, work groups and volunteers.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
Transportation and Circulation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative except remove all developments and roads above West Mineral King. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate trailhead parking to limit resource impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand or relocate trailhead parking and improve access to trails.
Visitor Use and Facilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Atwell sequoia grove to better interpret the logging story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for higher levels of day use; provide more interpretive services and displays.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit hiking only east of the ranger station (roads are removed) so the valley can be restored to more natural conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus improve the condition of local trails and trailheads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus improve the condition of valley trails and relocate trailheads to improve resource conditions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the pack station, no stock use in parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate the pack station to a more suitable location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not facilitate winter access; limited winter use includes cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage winter activities, such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, camping; develop winter overnight opportunities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close the Atwell Mill campground and restore the area to natural grove ecology (provide more primitive camping opportunities in Mineral King Valley). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign and enlarge the Atwell Mill campground while protecting grove resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative C, plus accommodate more diverse user groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand camping in the vicinity of the Cold Spring campground and West Mineral King cabin sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Trailhead Campsites</i>	365.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No designated trailhead camping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide trailhead campsites for backpackers starting multi-day trips.
<i>Other Services</i>	366.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain ranger station, amphitheater, restrooms, visitor parking, and small picnic area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain ranger station, amphitheater, restrooms, visitor parking, and small picnic area.
Private Land and Special Use Permits on Park Land			
<i>Hydroelectric Facilities</i>	367.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities continue to operate until September 8, 2006, when the permit expires. All facilities are removed by the hydroelectric facility owner as required by the permit, and areas returned to natural conditions. Restoration plans would be developed by the owner in cooperation with the National Park Service and the state historic preservation officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities continue to operate until September 8, 2006, when the permit expires. Facilities are removed by the hydroelectric facility owner, as required by the permit, and areas are returned to natural conditions. Restoration plans would be developed by the owner in cooperation with the National Park Service and the state historic preservation officer. Since facilities are historic, all actions would be taken in consultation with the state historic preservation officer.
<i>Oriole Lake (inholding)*</i>	368.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire the Oriole Lake inholdings from willing sellers and remove structures to improve resource conditions. After removal of facilities, designate potential wilderness area as wilderness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire the Oriole Lake inholdings from willing sellers, return to natural conditions, and provide trail access. After removal of facilities, designate potential wilderness area as wilderness.
<i>Silver City (inholding)*</i>	369.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silver City includes a resort and inholdings; some additional development may occur on private property. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a partnership with the Silver City resort to provide expanded services within scenic easement constraints; inholdings and services remain. Update the <i>Land Protection Plan</i>.
<i>Kaweah Han (inholding)*</i>	370.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue private ownership residence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to acquire a scenic easement with private owner and update the <i>Land Protection Plan</i>.
<i>Valley Inholdings*</i>	371.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire remaining inholdings from willing sellers; retain the trailhead parking area and facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire remaining inholdings from willing sellers; redesign or relocate the trailhead parking area to improve resource conditions; acquire selected historic facilities for public use.

* Inholdings are privately owned lands within the park.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide trailhead campsites for backpackers starting multi-day trips. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove picnic area and amphitheater. Remove all developments and roads above West Mineral King; permit only hiking east of the ranger station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative, but relocate visitor contact station and parking to provide larger and more useful facilities. Provide limited food service.
Private Land and Special Use Permits on Park Land		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities continue to operate if a special use permit is authorized by Congress through new legislation. The park would recommend the following conditions for a new permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ operation and maintenance of all hydroelectric-related facilities in a manner that would not impair park resources ◊ preparation and updating of resource mitigation plans and plans for public recreational use of related access routes ◊ fees to cover the costs to administer the facilities and related programs, and continued discounts on power to the park ◊ reassessment of the downstream hazard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not acquire the Oriole Lake inholdings; provide public access to the lake. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire the Oriole Lake inholdings from willing sellers; remove facilities to improve resource conditions; provide road access; and provide a primitive picnic area and trail access.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Silver City acquire inholdings from willing sellers; restore natural resource conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow limited expansion of facilities and services at Silver City; inholdings remain as a recreation community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire from willing sellers and remove structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage use for commercial lodging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire from willing sellers and partner to develop an education center.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire remaining inholdings from willing sellers; remove facilities and the trailhead parking area to improve resource conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire remaining inholdings from willing sellers; redesign the trailhead parking area to improve resource conditions; and maintain historic facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Permit Cabins*</i>	372.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under act of Congress, cabin permits cannot be extended beyond the lifetimes of the permittees of record in 1978. Restore natural resource conditions after cabins removed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to reissue current special use permits in five-year increments for permittees of record (as of November 10, 1978) during their lifetimes as long as such ongoing use would be compatible with the administration of the park or park purposes. Give permittees the option of donating cabins in sound condition to the National Park Service for public purposes in lieu of removing them (as required by the existing permits). Develop a cultural resource preservation plan for the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District in consultation with the state historic preservation officer. The plan would <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify opportunities and difficulties related to resource protection and public use of cabins (e.g., cabins in wetland locations or within floodplains that might need to be moved, or actions to restore non-contributing cabins to a more compatible historical appearance). include a decision process for determining whether to repair, replace, or remove cabins in case they are damaged by natural disaster, such as a tree fall, flood, or avalanche. (The decision process would include consultation with the state historic preservation officer and would consider historically contributing elements as well as the amount of structural damage sustained.) Analyze if operating acquired permit cabins as public lodging (typically cabins without baths) would be economically feasible. If feasible,

* Privately owned cabins that are permitted to remain on public land for a limited time in accordance with PL 95-625 (16 USC 45f(d)(2)(b)): "Any renewals or extensions of leases or permits shall be granted only to those persons who were lessees or permittees of record on November 10, 1978, and any such lease or permit shall provide that the lease or permit may be terminated by the Secretary at any time if the Secretary determines that such lease or permit is incompatible with the administration of the park pursuant to this section or that the land is needed for park purposes."

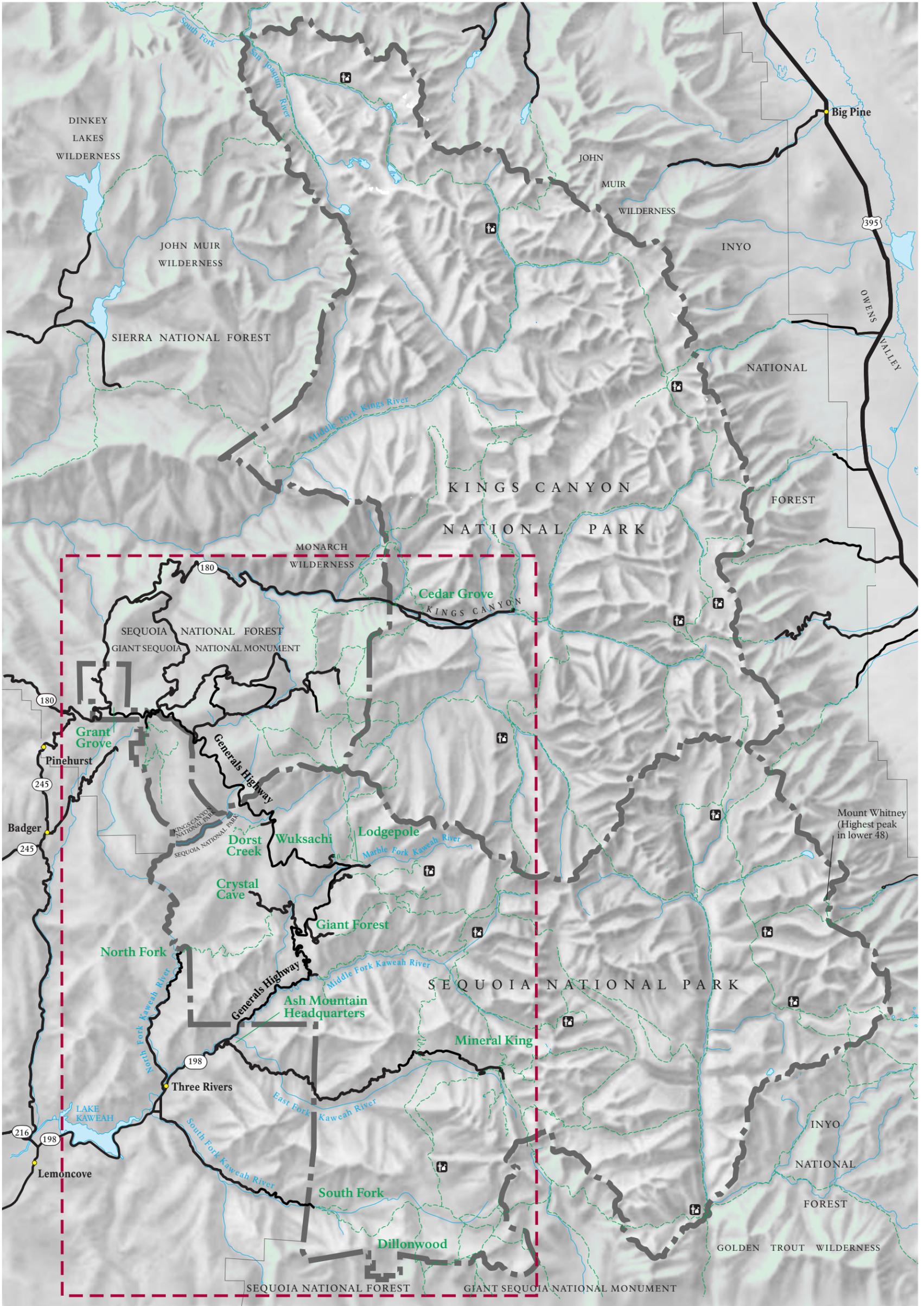
A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Congress enacts further legislation allowing the National Park Service to continue to reissue current special use permits, permits would be issued in five-year increments for permittees deemed eligible by Congress, as long as such ongoing use would be compatible with the administration of the park or park purposes. • Give permittees the option of donating cabins in sound condition to the National Park Service for public purposes in lieu of removing them (as required by the existing permits). • Continue to use a memorandum of agreement with the Mineral King Preservation Society to protect contributing elements of the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District. Features of cabins that made them non-contributing elements of the landscape district would have to be removed as a condition of the permit extension in order to portray a more historical appearance. • As a permit condition, require that infrastructure meet applicable health, safety, and environmental standards to accommodate long-term use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to reissue current special use permits in five-year increments for permittees of record (as of November 10, 1978) during their lifetimes as long as such ongoing use would be compatible with the administration of the park or park purposes. According to current legislation, permits may not be extended beyond life of permittee of record. • Give permittees the option of donating contributing cabins to the National Park Service in lieu of removing them (as required by the existing permits). The National Park Service would preserve selected examples of cabins. • Develop a cultural resource preservation plan for the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District in consultation with the state historic preservation officer. The plan would <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ identify opportunities and difficulties related to resource protection and interpretive use of cabins (for example, cabins in wetland locations or within floodplains that may need to be moved). ◊ include a decision process for determining whether to repair, replace or remove cabins in case they are damaged by natural disaster, such as a tree fall, flood, or avalanche. (The decision process would include consultation with the state historic preservation officer and would consider historically contributing elements as well as the amount of structural damage sustained.)

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Permit Cabins (cont.)</i>			<p>examine various operational approaches (e.g., operation by a partnership, a nonprofit entity, or a commercial services provider). Subject to NPS review and approval of agreements, as well as design and construction, the operator would be responsible for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ ensuring that required infrastructure improvements were made to meet applicable health, safety, and environmental standards and to accommodate long-term public use. ◊ developing a priority lodging reservation system for former special use permittees and/or their families for 25 years (a certain number of days would be set aside each season for each former special use permit), and setting aside an annual reunion time for former permittees and/or their families.
Snowmobile Use <i>(NPS Management Policies prohibit snowmobiles in the parks)</i>	373.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowmobiles allowed only on the road corridor for access to private land or permit cabins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowmobiles allowed only on the road corridor for access to private land or permit cabins.
Park Administration and Operations			
Ranger Station	374.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the Mineral King Valley ranger station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the Mineral King Valley ranger station to better meet public needs.
Residential Areas	375.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain existing staff housing at Atwell Mill and the NPS site near Silver City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate some existing staff housing at Atwell Mill to the NPS site near Silver City. Improve employee housing.
Work Camps	376.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff camp near NPS housing near Silver City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate area / group camp within an enlarged campground at Cold Spring.
Water Supply	377.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • React to growth or additional demand by more efficient use of existing supply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Address additional demand through more efficient use of existing supply. Determine the feasibility of a consolidated public water system for the East Mineral King area.
Wastewater	378.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess wastewater treatment feasibility for all areas. Upgrade public use areas to meet state standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess wastewater treatment feasibility for all areas. Upgrade public use areas to meet state standards.
Utilities	379.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No electrical service provided. Small solar system at the ranger station for operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No electrical service provided. Small solar system at the ranger station for operations.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No snowmobiles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to no-action except only for access to private inholdings.
Park Administration and Operations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move the ranger station to a location where it can be expanded.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative but add new employee and concession housing area near Cold Spring.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No work camps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit dry season water withdrawals to current levels to protect resources. Reduced use should not increase demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative, but reduced use should mitigate the need to upgrade wastewater systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the preferred alternative.

	Refer- ence No.	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
Dillonwood			
(A sequoia grove contiguous with Garfield Grove on the south boundary of Sequoia National Park.)			
Interim Vision Dillonwood, a previously logged sequoia grove, was added to the park in 2000. (Long-term use will be defined through site-specific planning)	380.	<i>Dillonwood is open to pedestrian use. There are experiments with a variety of sequoia forest management techniques.</i>	<i>The sequoia grove is protected, and modest use levels are accommodated. Dillonwood provides backcountry access through a sequoia grove. Day use is allowed. There are experiments with a variety of sequoia forest management techniques that are compatible with the NPS mission.</i>
Zones	381.	Primarily park operations .	Primarily low-use frontcountry with some backcountry .
Wilderness	382.	• Evaluate Dillonwood for wilderness suitability.	• Evaluate Dillonwood for wilderness suitability.
Natural Resources	383.	• Monitor and maintain giant sequoia grove forest health.	• Develop a long-term resources plan. Monitor and enhance giant sequoia grove health. Use as education and research area. Pursue cooperation with research / educational facilities as a remote field site.
Cultural Resources	384.	• Evaluate structures and facilities.	• Evaluate structures and facilities.
Road Access	385.	• Coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service to maintain administrative road access.	• Partner with the U.S. Forest Service and others to maintain road access. Future public road access determined by long-term planning.
Trails and Trailheads	386.	• No trail system connection to park or Giant Sequoia National Monument.	• Establish trail connections to Hockett Plateau and to Giant Sequoia National Monument.
	387.	• No trailhead provided.	• Provide trailhead suitable for foot and stock use.
Visitor Facilities	388.	• Assess condition of buildings.	• Determine facilities needed for visitor use, research, and educational purposes through long-term planning.
Education and Orientation	389.	No facilities or education provided	• Define needs for orientation and education.
	390.	Begin to work with the U.S. Forest Service to provide orientation and education.	• Explore partnership opportunities with the U.S. Forest Service for orientation and education.
Stock Use	391.	• No current use.	• Provide stock support at trailhead (hitch posts, trailer parking).
Camping	392.	• No camping facilities.	• Assess camping need and feasibility through long-term planning. Assess partnership opportunities with the U.S. Forest Service to provide camping facilities.
	393.	• No trailhead camping.	• Assess trailhead camping through long-term planning.
Residential Areas	394.	• No housing provided.	• Assess need for housing for staff in long-term planning.
Utilities	395.	• Determine need for facilities and develop minimum utilities necessary.	• Determine need for facilities and develop minimum utilities necessary.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
Dillonwood		
<i>The sequoia grove is protected, and low use levels are accommodated.</i>	<i>Dillonwood provides primitive camping facilities and backcountry access within a sequoia grove.</i>	<i>Same as alternative C, plus a group education primitive area is provided, and day use exploration is allowed. There are experiments with a variety of sequoia forest management techniques.</i>
More backcountry .	Primarily low-use frontcountry with some backcountry .	Primarily low-use frontcountry .
• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Same as the no-action alternative.
• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Same as the no-action alternative plus use as education and research area. Pursue cooperation with University of California as a remote field site.
• Same as the no-action alternative. • Remove most roads. Allow limited visitor access, but no vehicular access. Partner to develop parking area at gate.	• Same as the no-action alternative. • Upgrade road access and continue road access to cabin. Open to public.	• Same as the no-action alternative. • Upgrade road access and open to public.
• Convert some roads to trails.	• Improve trail connections to Hockett Plateau.	• Same as the preferred alternative.
• Develop trailhead near gate.	• Provide trailhead with stock support.	• Same as alternative C.
• Remove facilities.	• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Provide facilities for picnicking and educational purposes.
• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Same as the preferred alternative.	• Same as the preferred alternative.
• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Same as the preferred alternative.
• No stock use.	• Same as the preferred alternative.	• Same as the preferred alternative.
• Allow backcountry camping.	• Provide horse camp.	• Same as alternative C plus provide a primitive group campground.
• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Provide a trailhead campground.
• No housing provided.	• Provide housing for staff.	• Same as alternative C.
• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Same as the no-action alternative.	• Same as the no-action alternative.



-  Ranger Station
-  Park Boundary
-  National Forest Areas
-  Roads
-  Designated Area Shown for Alternatives
-  Trails
-  Water

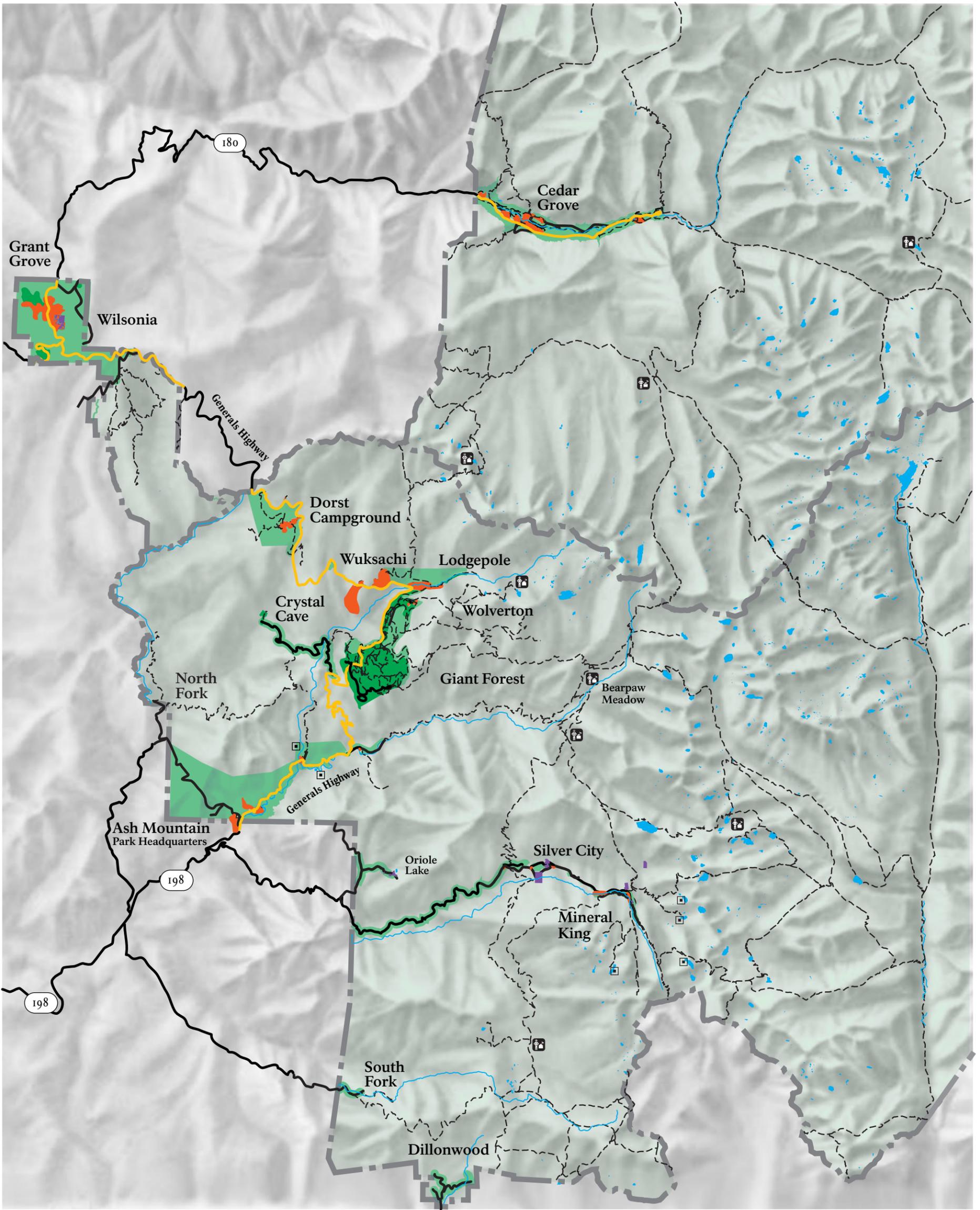


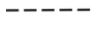
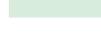
PARK MAP

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

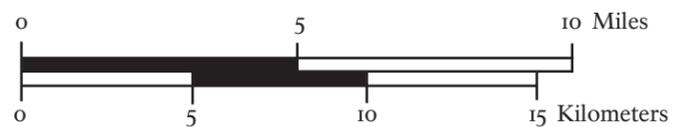
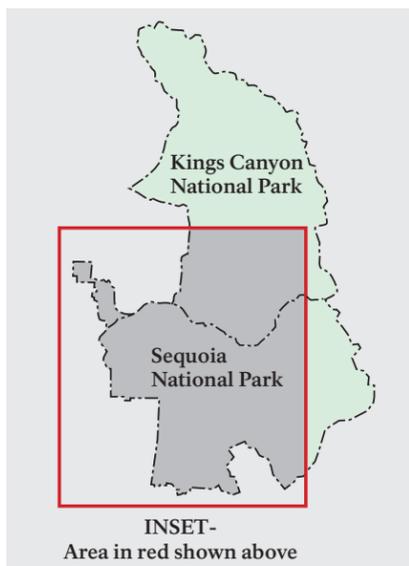
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-  Park Boundaries
 -  Lakes, Rivers and Streams
 -  Trails
 -  Roads
 -  Private Property
 -  Backcountry Ranger Stations
 -  Hydroelectric Utility Dams
- Management Prescriptions / Zones**
-  High Use Scenic Driving (Road corridor)
 -  Development
 -  High Use Frontcountry
 -  Low Use Frontcountry*
 -  Backcountry

* Low Use Frontcountry areas adjacent to roads enlarged for visibility



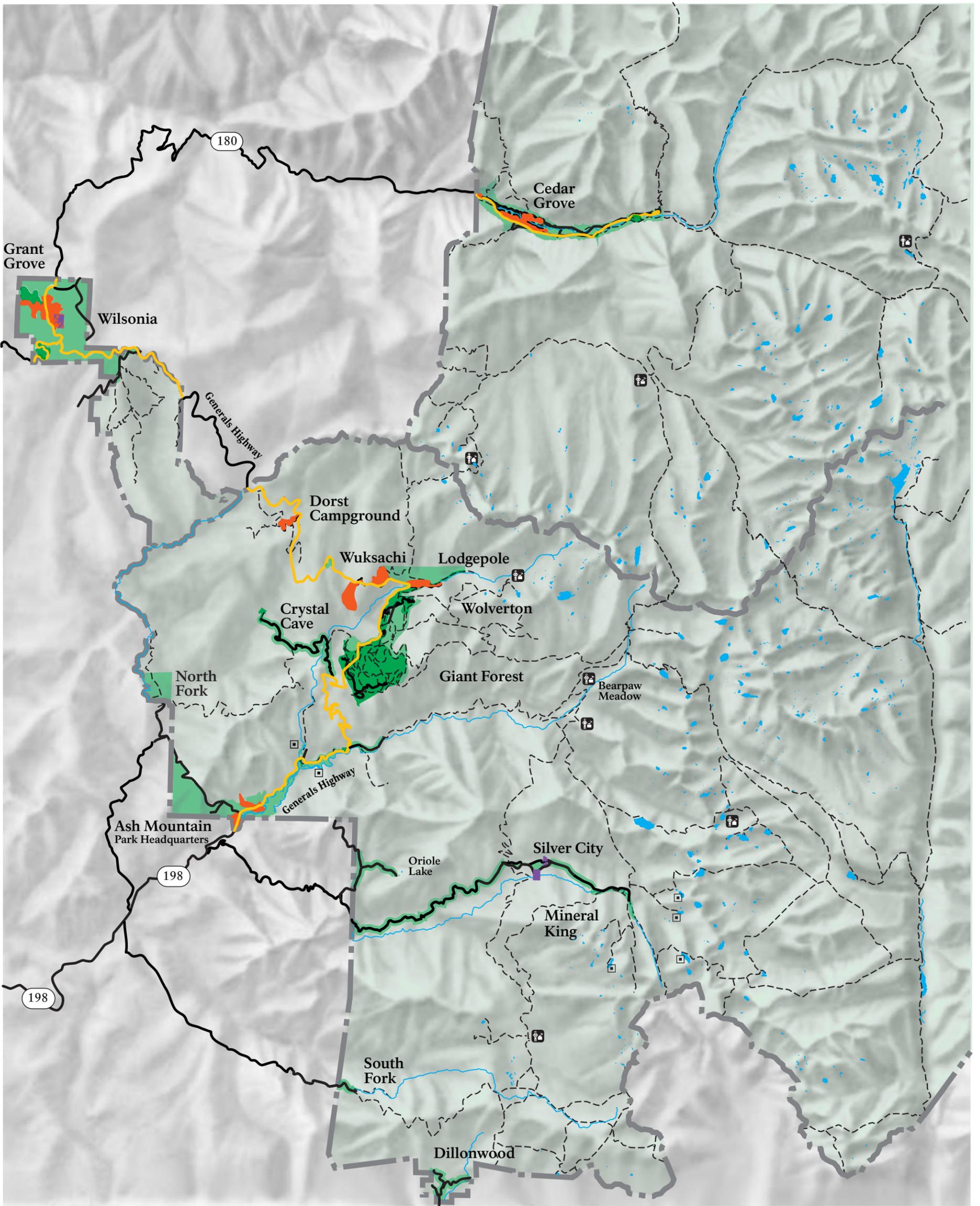
NO ACTION

Continue Current Management

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

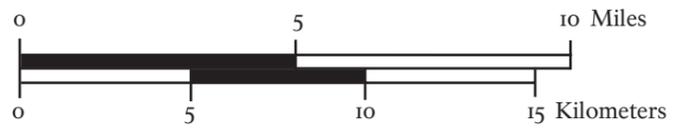
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- Park Boundaries
 - Lakes, Rivers and Streams
 - Trails
 - Roads
 - Private Property
 - Backcountry Ranger Stations
 - Hydroelectric Utility Dams
- Management Prescriptions / Zones**
- High Use Scenic Driving (Road corridor)
 - Development
 - High Use Frontcountry
 - Low Use Frontcountry*
 - Backcountry

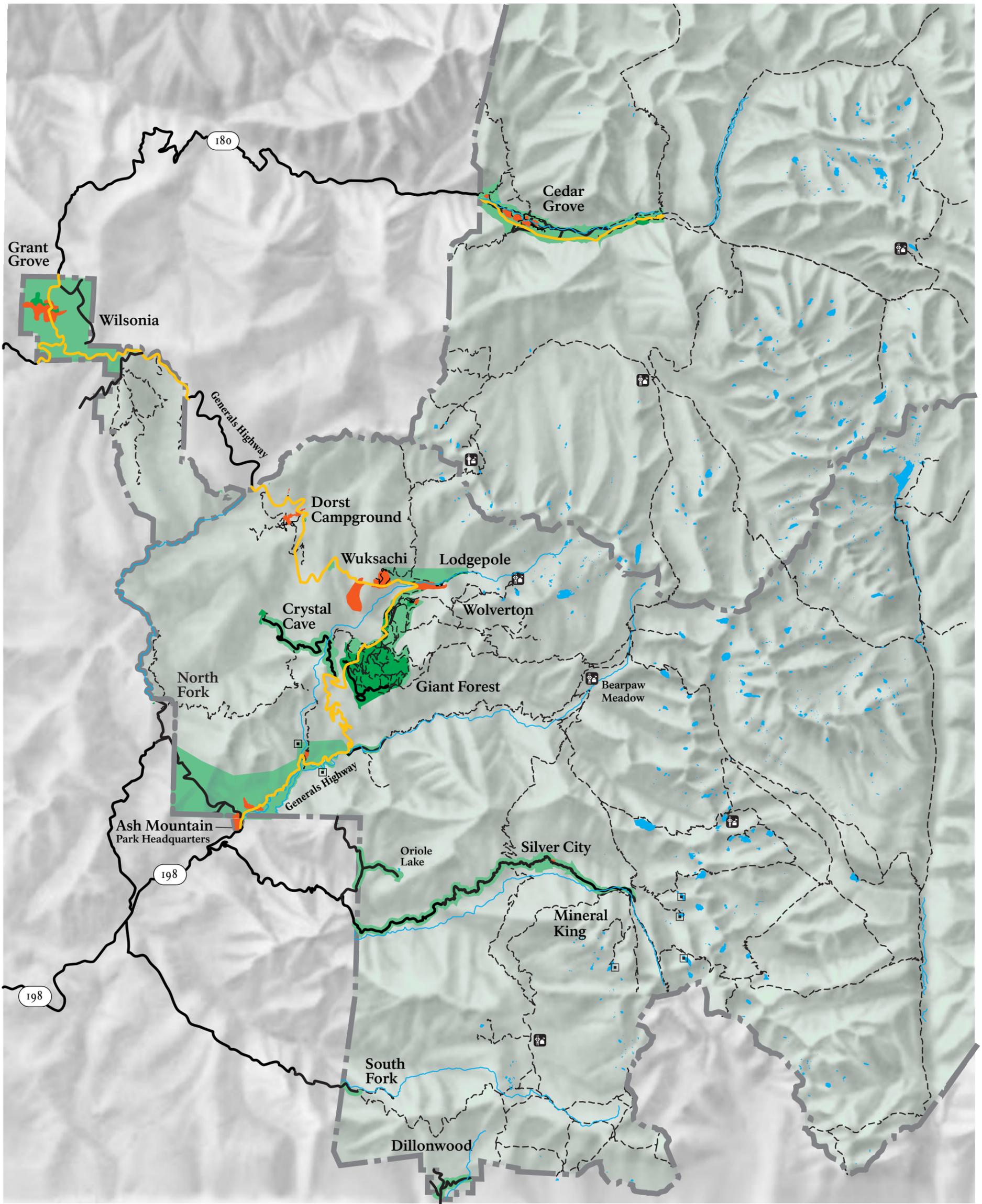
* Low Use Frontcountry areas adjacent to roads enlarged for visibility



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park

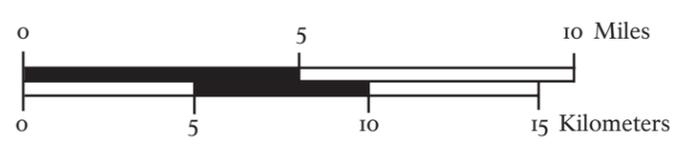
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- Park Boundaries
- Lakes, Rivers and Streams
- Trails
- Roads
- Private Property
- Backcountry Ranger Stations
- Hydroelectric Utility Dams

- Management Prescriptions / Zones**
- High Use Scenic Driving (Road corridor)
 - Development
 - High Use Frontcountry
 - Low Use Frontcountry*
 - Backcountry

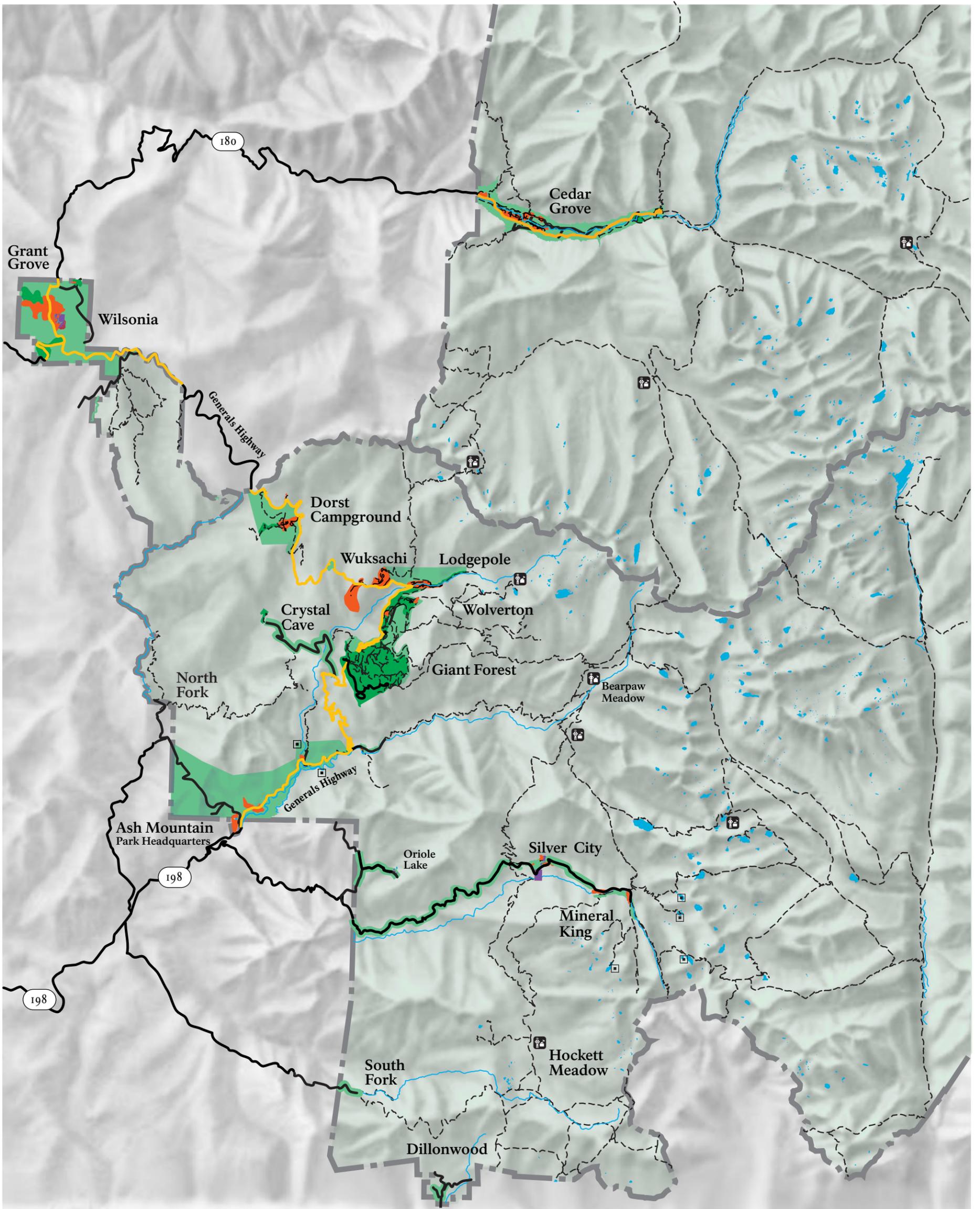
* Low Use Frontcountry areas adjacent to roads enlarged for visibility



ALTERNATIVE A

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

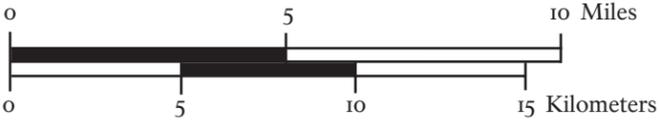
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- Park Boundaries
- Lakes, Rivers and Streams
- Trails
- Roads
- Private Property
- Backcountry Ranger Stations
- Hydroelectric Utility Dams

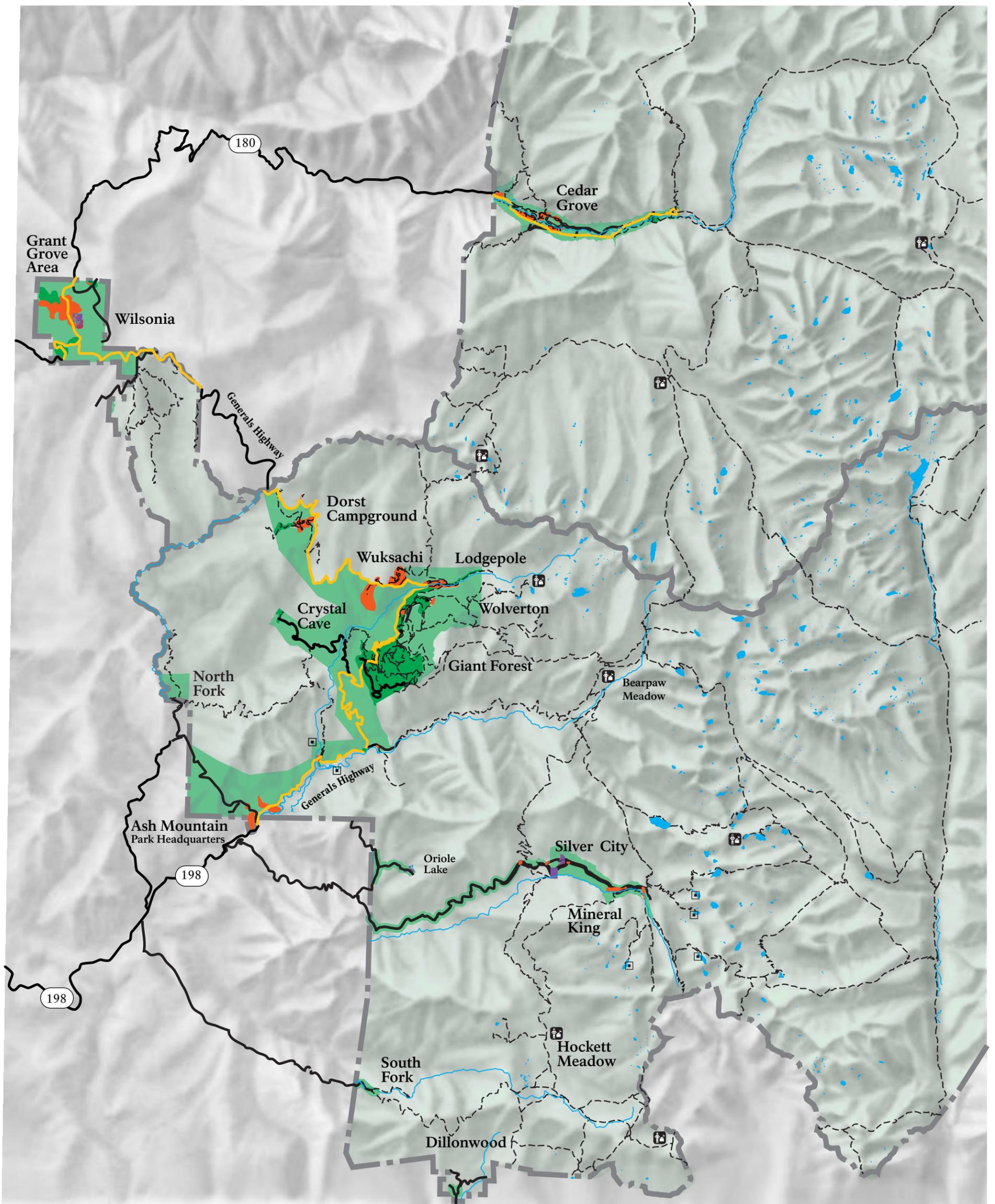
- Management Prescriptions / Zones**
- High Use Scenic Driving (Road corridor)
 - Development
 - High Use Frontcountry
 - Low Use Frontcountry*
 - Backcountry

* Low Use Frontcountry areas adjacent to roads enlarged for visibility



ALTERNATIVE C
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
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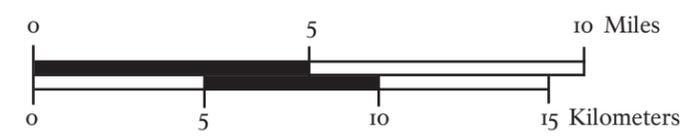
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-  Park Boundaries
-  Lakes, Rivers and Streams
-  Trails
-  Roads
-  Private Property
-  Backcountry Ranger Stations
-  Hydroelectric Utility Dams

- Management Prescriptions / Zones**
-  High Use Scenic Driving (Road corridor)
 -  Development
 -  High Use Frontcountry
 -  Low Use Frontcountry*
 -  Backcountry

* Low Use Frontcountry areas adjacent to roads enlarged for visibility

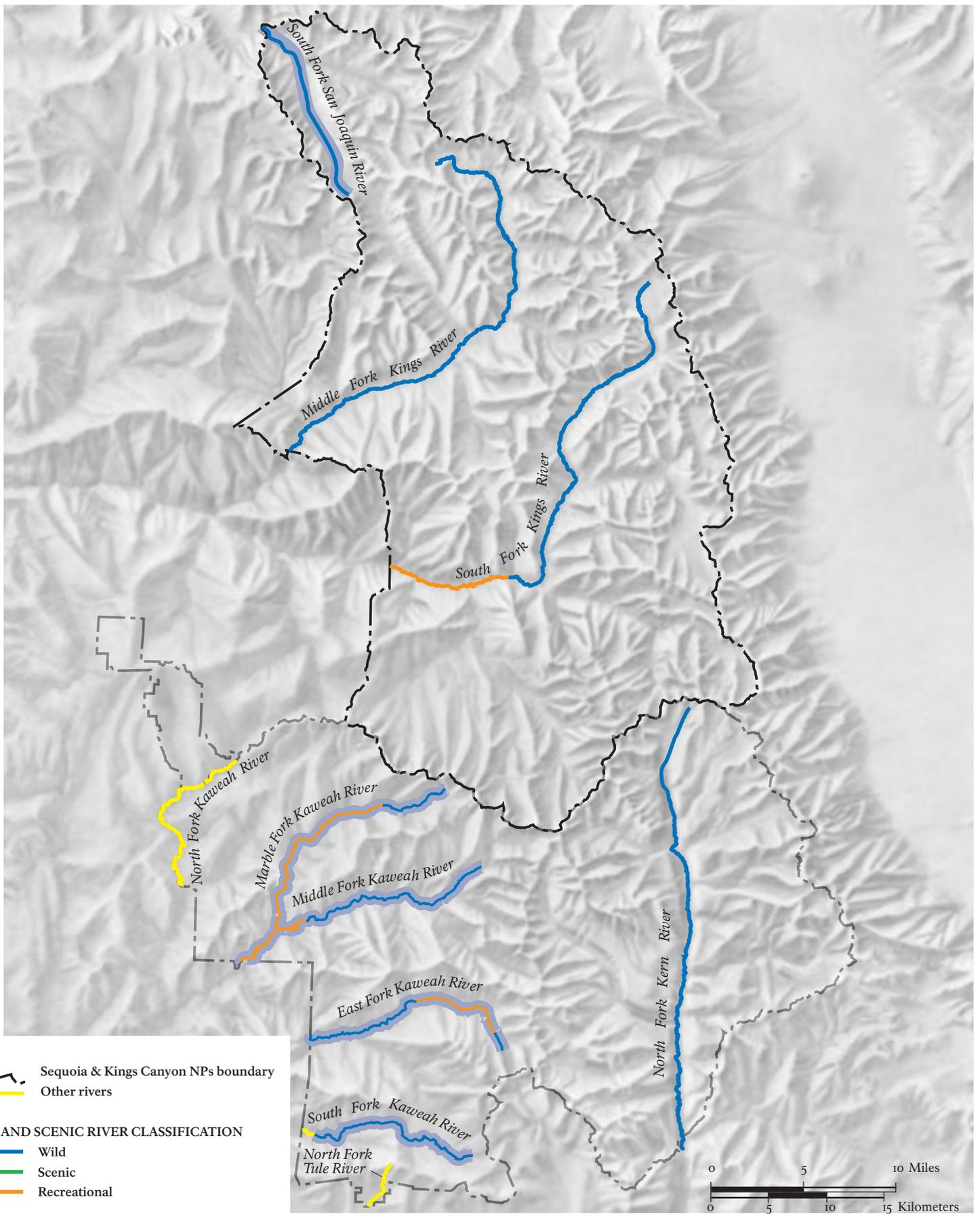


ALTERNATIVE D

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park

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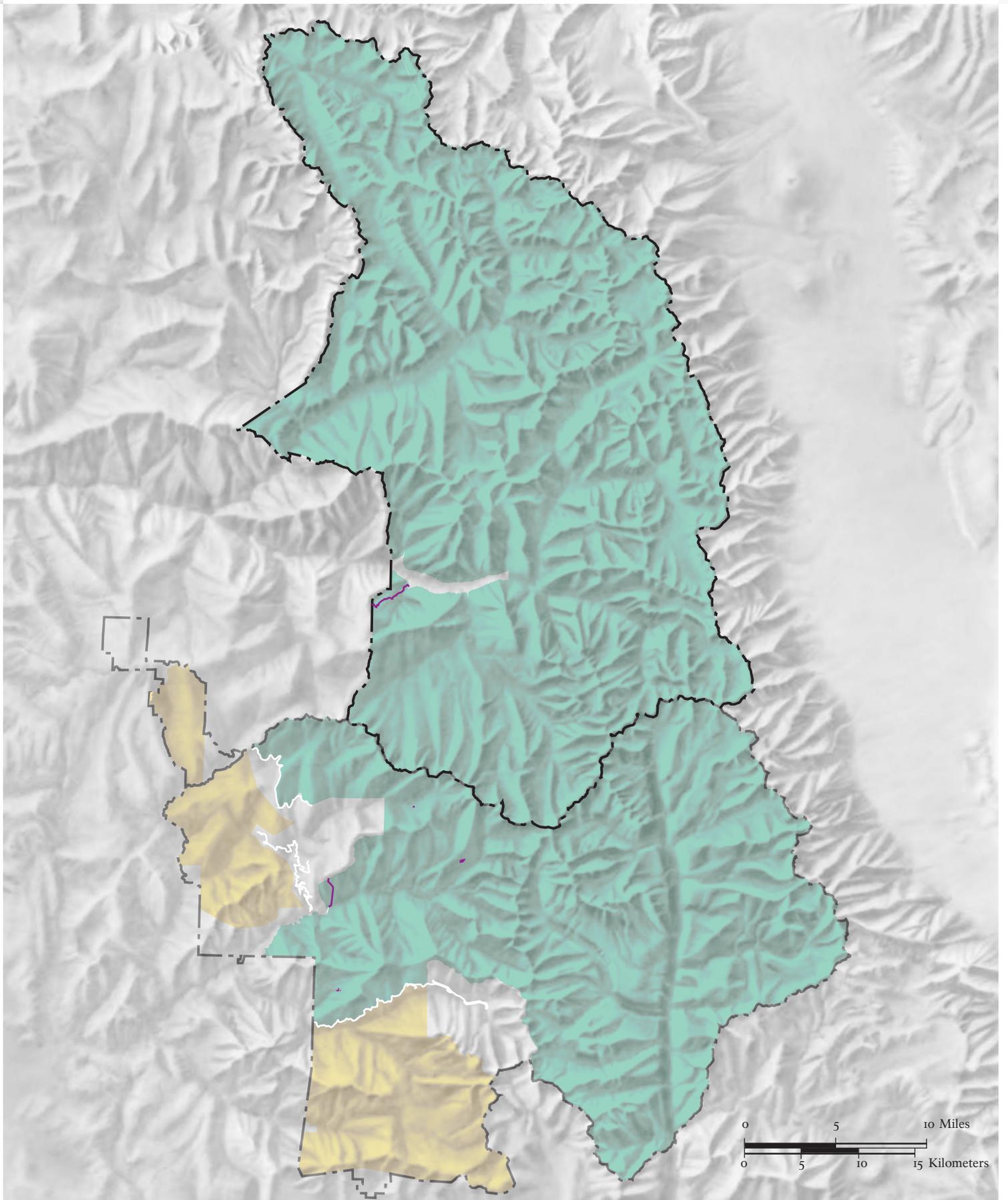
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WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

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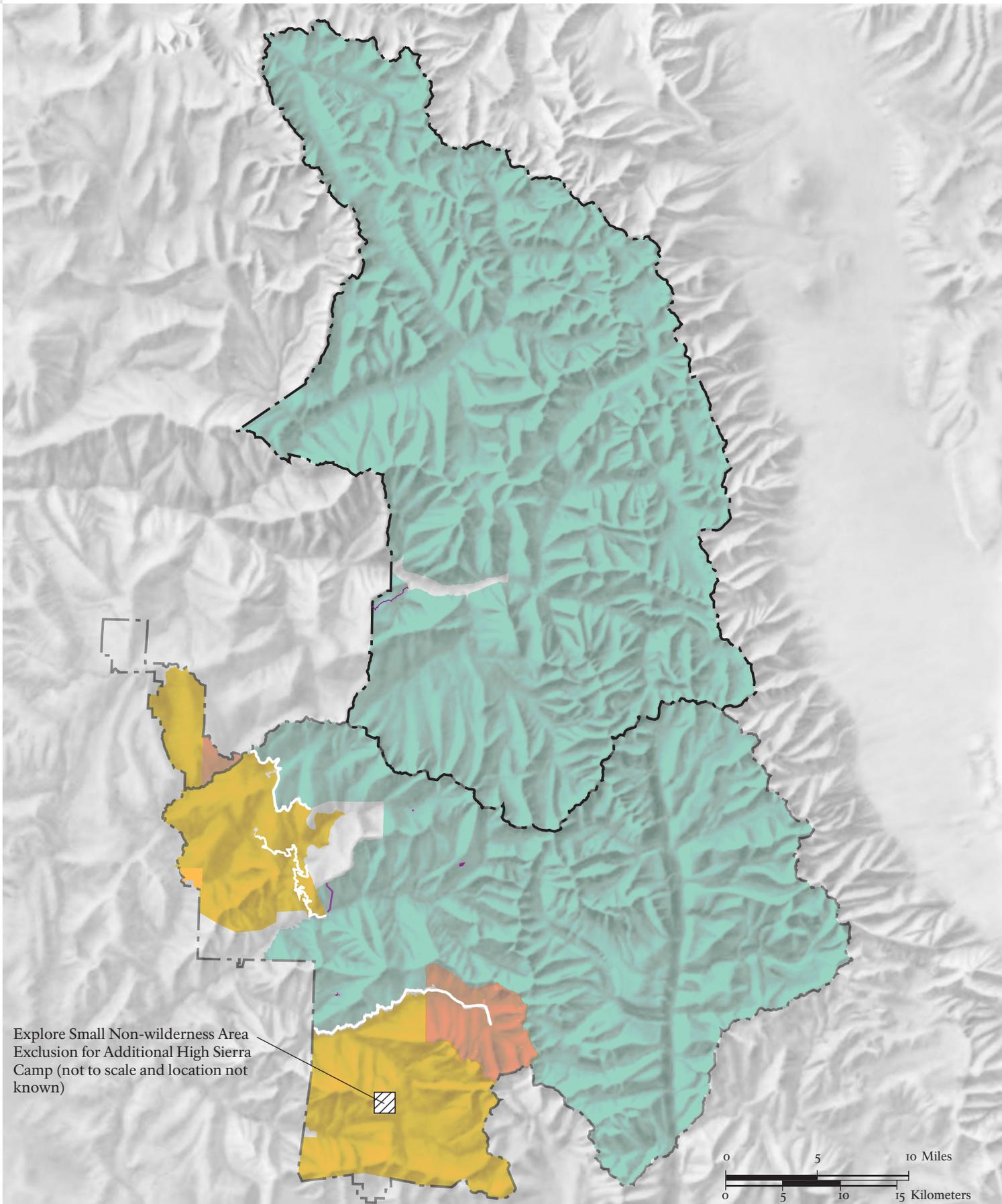
- Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness
- Potential Wilderness
- Recommended Wilderness

EXISTING WILDERNESS No Action - Continue Current Management Backcountry/Wilderness

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

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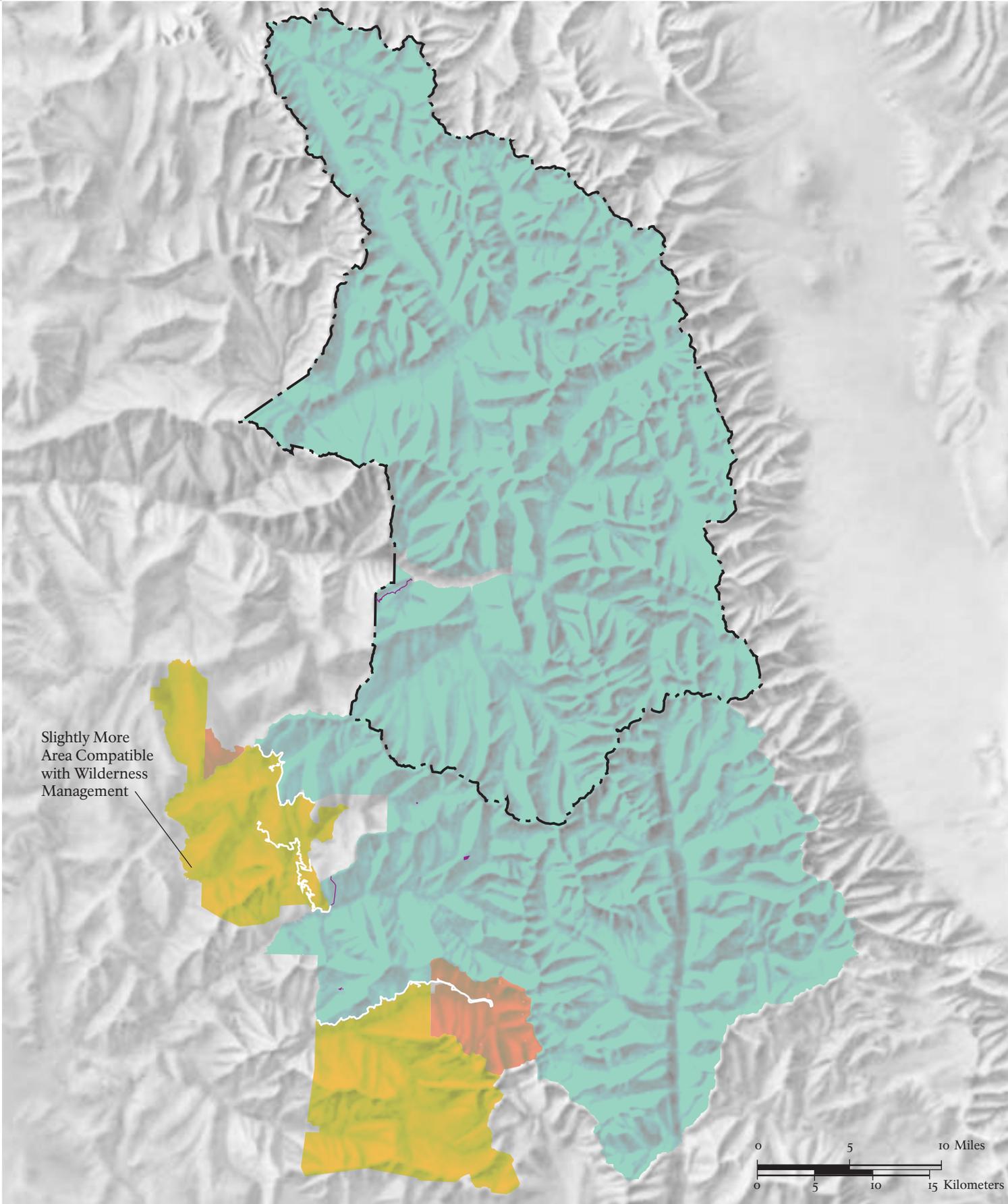


Explore Small Non-wilderness Area
Exclusion for Additional High Sierra
Camp (not to scale and location not
known)

- Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness
- Potential Wilderness
- Compatible with Wilderness Management
- To Be Studied
- Non-wilderness Backcountry

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
Backcountry/Wilderness
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
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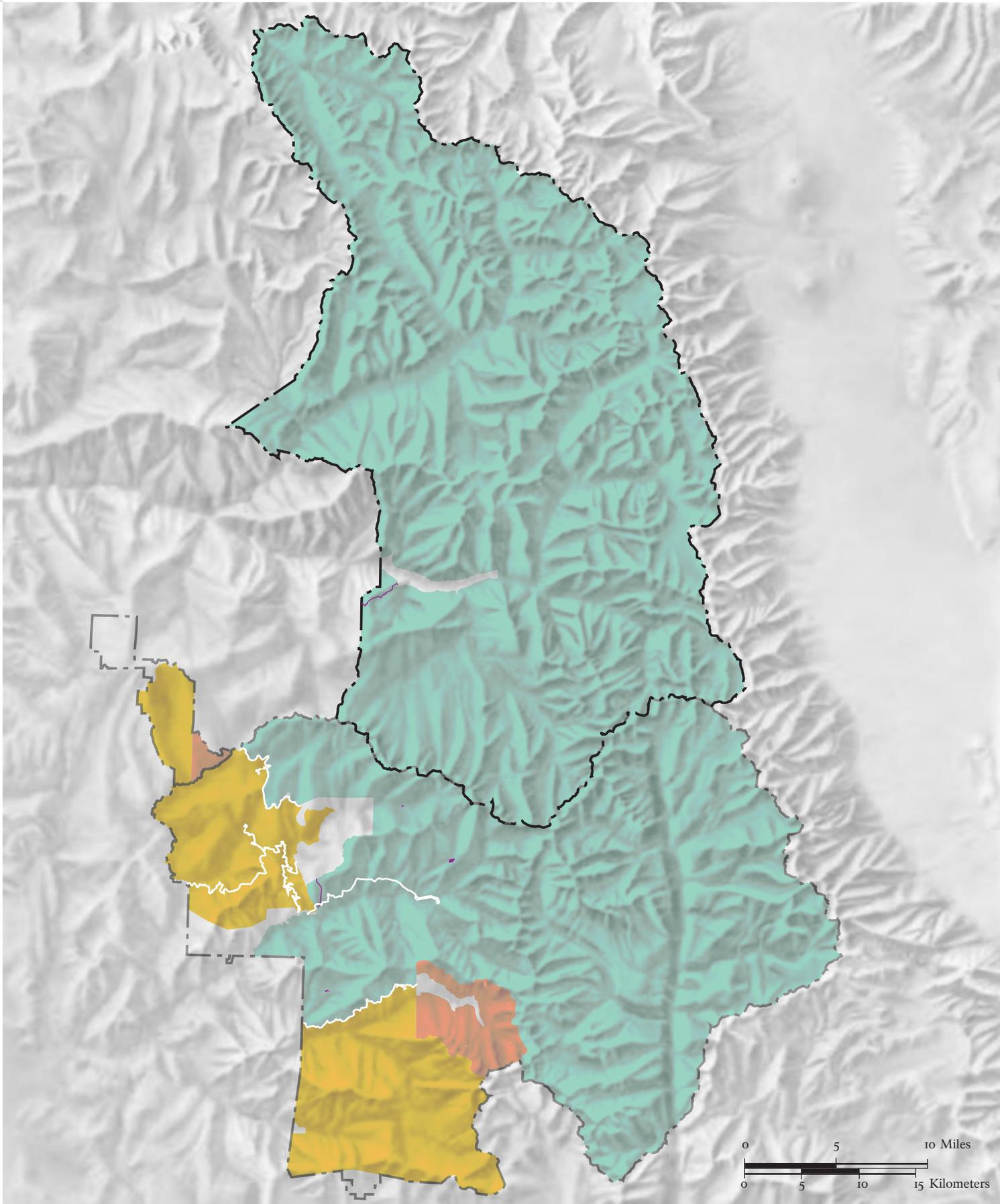
Slightly More Area Compatible with Wilderness Management

- Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness
- Potential Wilderness
- Compatible with Wilderness Management
- To Be Studied

ALTERNATIVE A Backcountry/Wilderness

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
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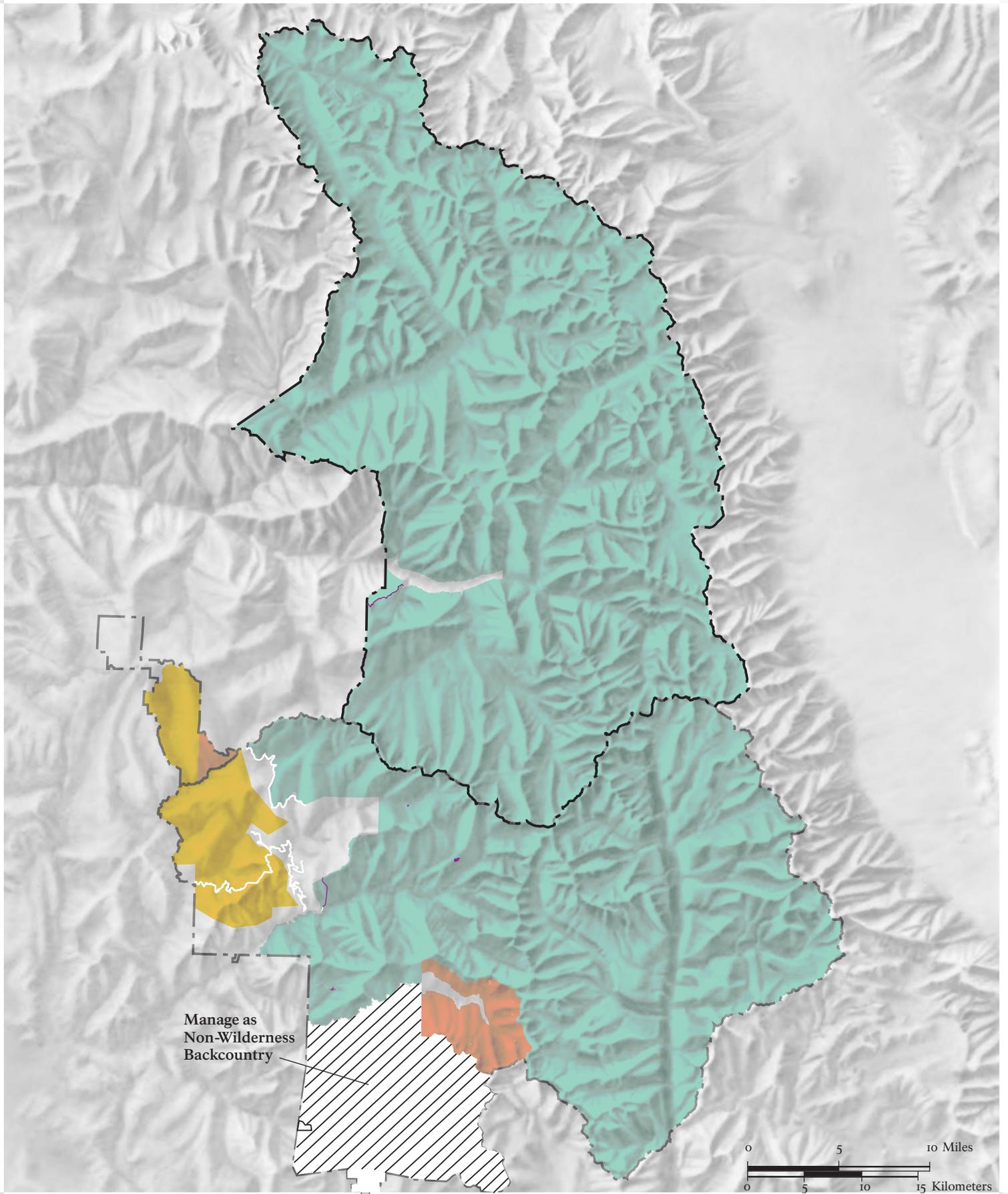
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- Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness
- Potential Wilderness
- Compatible with Wilderness Management
- To Be Studied

ALTERNATIVE C
Backcountry/Wilderness
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
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- Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness
- Potential Wilderness
- Compatible with Wilderness Management
- To Be Studied
- Non-Wilderness Backcountry

ALTERNATIVE D
Backcountry/Wilderness
 Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
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Summary of Environmental Consequences



Summary of the Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives

NOTE: No park resources or values related to the natural or cultural environment, or to wild and scenic rivers or wilderness areas, would be impaired under any alternative.

Impact Topic	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Natural Resources</i>		
<i>Cave Resources</i>	At Crystal Cave limiting use and pursuing existing management programs to control impacts would not result in any additional long-term impacts, which would remain negligible. A few caves could sustain localized negligible to minor, adverse, long-term impacts from limited recreational use. Most of the parks' other caves, including those with particularly sensitive resources, would remain unaffected.	The preferred alternative would provide a high degree of protection for the vast majority of high-quality caves in the parks, with a standard of visitor use for the others that would ensure protection of their natural integrity. Most caves, including those with particularly sensitive resources, would remain unaffected. Limiting use and undertaking management programs to control impacts would continue in Crystal Cave, and any additional long-term impacts would be negligible. In other caves where limited recreational use was allowed, impacts would be localized, negligible to minor, and long term.
<i>Water Resources</i>	Alternative A would have minor to moderate, beneficial effects as a result of removing and redesigning facilities. Continued use and development, along with increased visitation, would have minor to possibly moderate adverse, long-term, localized impacts on water quality, hydrologic processes, and biological communities.	The preferred alternative would result in minor to moderate beneficial effects to the free-flowing conditions of park rivers, water quality, floodplains, and biological communities. Contributing factors include no increased water withdrawals, better located and designed trails and river access points, improved backcountry conditions, removed water diversions and dams, and redesigned or relocated facilities. Minor, adverse, short-term, site-specific impacts would occur because of construction activities.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<i>Natural Resources</i>		
<p>Impacts would be similar to the no-action alternative except in other caves where use would be restricted to specialists, impacts would be reduced compared to the no-action alternative and would be localized, negligible to minor, and long term.</p>	<p>Impacts would be similar to the no-action alternative for Crystal Cave.. Providing guided public tours of additional caves would increase the potential for adverse impacts, but a careful selection process would ensure that only the more resilient caves (those with less sensitive or unique features and fauna, would be candidates for tours), resulting in minor, long-term impacts. Most of the parks' other caves, including those with particularly sensitive resources, would remain unaffected. Impacts from limited recreational use, including guided tours, would be negligible to minor, adverse, and long term.</p>	<p>Same as alternative C.</p>
<p>Alternative A would result in minor to moderate, long-term, beneficial effects on water quality, floodplains, biological communities, and hydrological processes as a result of removing facilities, water diversions, and dams, and reducing high use areas near streams or lakes. Adverse impacts from limited new development and facility removal would be minor and short term.</p>	<p>Alternative C would result in minor beneficial effects on the free-flowing condition of park rivers, water quality, and biological communities as a result of providing better located and designed trails and river access points, expanded shuttle systems, and less concentrated backcountry use. Increased use and development would have minor, adverse, long-term, localized impacts on water quality and biological habitat. Minor, short-term, site-specific impacts would occur from construction activities. Minor, incremental adverse effects to the natural hydrology and biological communities of some streams would occur due to increased water diversions.</p>	<p>Similar to alternative C except increased frontcountry use and development and more concentrated backcountry use would have minor, long-term, localized adverse impacts on water quality and biological habitat.</p>

Impact Topic	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Vegetation and Soils</i>	The no-action alternative would continue to have negligible to possibly moderate, adverse, long-term, localized impacts on vegetation and soils, primarily in existing areas of concentrated use and development.	Limiting backcountry use to improve resource conditions would result in minor to moderate, beneficial long-term, localized effects. The construction and use of new facilities would result in minor, adverse, short- and long-term, site-specific impacts. The development zone would increase by 142 acres, an 8% increase compared to the no-action alternative.
<i>Giant Sequoia Groves</i>	<p>Giant sequoia groves would continue to be managed as integral to the ecosystem. Grove conditions within some high-use groves would continue to be manipulated or altered to maintain specimen trees or to accommodate visitor use and facilities but would not result in additional impacts. Impacts associated with future visitor use increases would be mitigated to the extent possible; impacts would be negligible to minor, localized, long term, and adverse. Present water withdrawals at Atwell Mill, Redwood Mountain, and Grant Grove may be contributing to moisture stress within sequoia groves in affected drainages; however, there is no direct evidence of impacts at present. Water consumption is relatively low at Atwell Mill and Redwood Mountain, and it is not expected to change under this alternative. More day use at Grant Grove would raise annual water consumption; but water management and conservation measures should preclude higher summer water withdrawals, with no additional impacts.</p> <p>Because of the uncertainty of the impacts on giant sequoia systems, no increased water withdrawals would occur until future studies had been completed and a monitoring program implemented to</p>	<p>Giant sequoia groves would continue to be managed as integral to the ecosystem. Not allowing development zones in sequoia groves would improve resource conditions. Not increasing peak-season water withdrawals at Grant Grove, and implementing additional conservation measures to reduce withdrawals, could result in beneficial effects, depending on the extent to which withdrawals were decreased. Other actions under the preferred alternative should not result in any additional impacts on sequoia groves.</p> <p>Manipulating or altering grove conditions at Big Stump to maintain site-specific conditions related to historic logging and to accommodate increased visitor use, along with limited new facilities in some groves, would result in negligible to minor, localized, adverse impacts, with intensive visitor management and other measures used to minimize impacts.</p>

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<p>Alternative A would result in minor to moderate, long-term, localized, beneficial effects from a reduction in use and development within the parks. The development zone would be reduced by 435 acres (25%) compared to the no-action alternative. Facility removal and limited new development would result in minor to moderate, adverse, short-term impacts.</p>	<p>Some negligible to minor, long-term, beneficial impacts would occur as a result of improving the frontcountry trail system. Reducing the extent of high-use backcountry areas would result in minor to moderate, localized, long-term benefits. New facilities, as well as increased frontcountry use and dispersed backcountry use, would result in minor, site-specific, long-term impacts. The development zone would increase by 241 acres, or 14%, compared to the no-action alternative.</p>	<p>Constructing new facilities, including trails, would have negligible to minor, site-specific, long-term impacts; however, constructing a Grant Grove bypass road (if allowed) could have moderate impacts, depending on site-specific conditions and project design. Concentrating use and allowing higher backcountry use levels would result in an incremental increase in minor, long-term, localized impacts (e.g., compaction, erosion, trampling, loss of vegetation), primarily in new high-use areas. Adding a high Sierra camp in the Hockett Plateau area could result in moderate impacts as use increased. Designating a few trails for hikers only should reduce impacts associated with stock use to a negligible to minor level. The development zone would increase by 388 acres, or 22%, compared to the no-action alternative.</p>
<p>Giant sequoia groves would continue to be managed as integral to the ecosystem. Alternative A would have localized negligible to minor benefits on the General Grant and Atwell Mill Groves because use and the amount of facilities would be reduced, resulting in less withdrawal of surface and subsurface water. Reductions could be substantial due to the removal of overnight facilities, which use approximately 75% more water than day facilities. Reducing impacts to grove hydrology and potential contributions to moisture stress on Grant Grove, sequoia groves south of Grant Grove, and Atwell Mill Grove would be a long-term benefit.</p>	<p>Impacts would be similar to the no-action alternative except localized manipulation or alteration of grove conditions at Big Stump to maintain conditions related to historic logging, along with limited new facilities within some groves to accommodate increased visitor use, would result in minor, adverse impacts. Increased visitor use and development at Grant Grove and Atwell Mill would increase water consumption. If new water sources had to be sought outside the parks, studies would be needed to ensure that there would be no adverse effects on other sequoia groves. With mitigating measures and no peak-season increased water consumption at Grant Grove, alternative C should not result in any additional impacts.</p>	<p>Similar to alternative C.</p>

Impact Topic	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
	determine potential impacts. Water system modifications or other mitigating measures to reduce or eliminate potential impacts would be studied.	
<i>Meadow / Riparian / Aquatic Communities</i>	Continued and slightly increased use and facility development would have minor to moderate, adverse, long-term effects on meadows, riparian, and aquatic communities, primarily in developed areas, around popular lakes and streams, at stream crossings, and below water withdrawal diversions. Removing some facilities would have minor to moderate adverse, short-term impacts. Removing hydroelectric water diversions and the Mineral King dams, in accordance with a restoration plan, would likely have minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term effects on water flows and riparian conditions.	Impacts to meadows, riparian areas, and wetlands in localized areas would be minor to moderate, beneficial, and long term, primarily at Lodgepole, Cedar Grove, and Ash Mountain, and where resource conditions were improved in the backcountry. Removing some hydroelectric water diversions, in accordance with a restoration plan, would likely have minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term effects on water flows and riparian conditions. The preferred alternative would also result in localized minor, long-term, adverse impacts such as vegetation trampling due to increased use in some areas. Facility removal would have minor to moderate, adverse, short-term impacts.
<i>Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat</i>	Wildlife populations and habitat would continue to be influenced to varying degrees by existing facilities and visitor use that affect natural movements of wildlife, habitat, and food sources. Increased use would have negligible to minor, adverse, long-term impacts. Impacts would be related to more visitor use displacing or disturbing wildlife, conflicts with animals associating humans and food, and the injury or loss of wildlife from motor vehicle collisions.	Improving the frontcountry trail system would have negligible to minor, beneficial, long-term impacts to wildlife habitat. Limiting backcountry use where necessary for resource protection would result in localized minor to moderate benefits. Constructing new facilities, increasing frontcountry and winter use, and dispersing backcountry use would increase the potential for conflicts between humans and wildlife. Impacts would range from wildlife learning to associate humans with food sources (leading to more interactions) to injury or loss of wildlife from motor vehicle collisions. Impacts would be negligible to minor, localized, and long term.
<i>Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive Species</i>	The no-action alternative would have no effect or would not be likely to adversely affect any special status species. If impacts were expected, mitigating measures would be taken as necessary in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.	The preferred alternative would have no effect or would not be likely to adversely affect any special status species. Mitigation in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be implemented as necessary.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<p>Alternative A would result in minor to moderate, long-term, localized beneficial impacts to meadows, riparian areas, and wetlands, primarily in developed areas, around popular lakes, at streams and stream crossings, below water withdrawal points, and where hydroelectric facilities were removed. Facility removal would have minor to moderate, adverse impacts over the short term.</p>	<p>Alternative C would result in minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts to meadows, riparian areas, and wetlands in some areas, primarily in the Lodgepole, Cedar Grove, and Ash Mountain developed areas and in the backcountry where use was dispersed. Also, the potential of irreversible impacts to some heavily grazed meadows could be reduced, which would be a major, long-term benefit. However, alternative C would also result in minor to moderate, adverse, long-term impacts due to incremental increases in water diversions, increased dispersal of visitors in the backcountry, and continued operation of hydroelectric facilities.</p>	<p>Alternative D would result in minor, long-term, benefits to meadows, riparian areas, and wetlands in some areas, primarily in the Lodgepole, Cedar Grove, and Ash Mountain developed areas. Removing some hydroelectric water diversions, in accordance with a restoration plan, would likely have minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term effects on water flows and riparian conditions. Alternative D would result in localized, long-term, minor, adverse impacts where river access points were developed in currently unaffected locations. Minor, adverse, long-term impacts would also result from greater use in high-use backcountry areas and from an incremental increase in water diversions.</p>
<p>Alternative A would result in minor to moderate, long-term, beneficial impacts as a result of reduced use and fewer facilities, and minor, long-term, adverse impacts from the construction of limited new concession developments.</p>	<p>Similar to the preferred alternative. The construction and use of new facilities, increased frontcountry and winter use, and the dispersal of backcountry use would result in an increased potential for conflicts between humans and wildlife. Reducing the extent of high-use backcountry areas would result in minor to moderate, localized, long-term benefits.</p>	<p>New facilities, increased frontcountry use, high-use backcountry corridors, and winter use, as well as an increased potential for interactions between people and wildlife seeking food, and injury or loss of wildlife from motor vehicle collisions, would all result in localized, negligible to minor, long-term impacts. Constructing a Grant Grove bypass (if allowed) would have minor to moderate adverse impacts. Designating river access points would reduce localized impacts and increase opportunities for habitat restoration, particularly riparian habitat, a minor benefit.</p>
<p>Impacts would be similar to the no-action alternative except there could be beneficial impacts on some special status species because of reduced development and use.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as the no-action alternative.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as the no-action alternative.</p>

Impact Topic	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Air Quality</i>	Proposed actions within the parks would not increase levels of stationary source emissions above conformity <i>de minimis</i> values (50–100 tons/ year). Smoke emissions from the parks’ managed wildland fires over the next 10 years have been included in the San Joaquin Valley’s State Implementation Plan. Despite increased park traffic projections under the no-action alternative, automobile-related emissions are expected to decrease by 2010, primarily as a result of decreases in fleetwide average emission factors. Adverse emission impacts within the parks would range from negligible to moderate.	Proposed actions within the parks would not increase levels of stationary source emissions above conformity <i>de minimis</i> values, the same as the no-action alternative. Smoke emissions from the parks’ managed wildland fires over the next 10 years have been included in the San Joaquin Valley’s State Implementation Plan. Despite increased park visitor traffic projections, automobile-related emissions are expected to decrease by 2010, primarily as a result of lower fleetwide average emissions. By 2010 adverse vehicle emission impacts within the parks would range from negligible to moderate, with no change in impact level from the no-action alternative.
<i>Wild and Scenic Rivers</i>		
<i>Wild and Scenic Rivers and Impacts on Outstandingly Remarkable Values</i>	While unregulated river access in some frontcountry areas would continue, the overall impact on designated and eligible river segments and their outstandingly remarkable values would be minor, beneficial, and long term due to improved facilities as well as facilities being relocated out of flood-plains. The removal of small-scale historic hydroelectric facilities on forks of the Kaweah River would result in temporary, moderate to major, adverse impacts due to demolition and restoration activities; long-term impacts on free-flowing river conditions would be moderate and beneficial. Because the facilities are not readily visible, this action would result in a minor, beneficial, long-term impact on scenic values. The loss of recreational access and hiking opportunities would result in minor, adverse, long-term impacts on some recreational users and values in the immediate area.	With controlled river access, improved facilities, and a limited number of hydroelectric facilities, designated and eligible wild and scenic river segments would be more protected, ensuring the preservation of outstandingly remarkable values. This would result in minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts. Demolition of hydroelectric facilities would result in temporary, moderate, adverse impacts; impacts to outstandingly remarkable values over the long term would be minor to moderate and beneficial. Some of the hydroelectric access routes would continue to be available for recreational access, with minor beneficial impacts compared to the no-action alternative. Visitor use in localized areas would continue to result in minor, adverse, long-term impacts on outstandingly remarkable values.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<p>Similar to the no-action alternative except park visitor traffic projections are expected to decrease by 10%.</p>	<p>Similar to the preferred alternative.</p>	<p>Similar to the preferred alternative except automobile emission projections would be higher, although adverse vehicle emission impacts would still range from negligible to moderate.</p>
<p><i>Wild and Scenic Rivers</i></p>		
<p>Impacts would be the same as the no-action alternative.</p>	<p>With controlled river access and improved facilities, designated and eligible wild and scenic river segments would be protected, and their outstandingly remarkable values preserved, resulting in minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts. The continued operation of small-scale historic hydroelectric facilities on forks of the Kaweah River under the terms of a new permit would have a minor, adverse, long-term impact but would not preclude the inclusion of these segments in the wild and scenic rivers system. Minor, beneficial impacts on recreational values would remain because of associated hiking and other recreational opportunities associated with the hydroelectric facilities.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as the preferred alternative.</p>

Impact Topic	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Backcountry / Wilderness</i>		
<i>Backcountry / Wilderness</i>	The no-action alternative would continue current management of designated wilderness and non-wilderness backcountry areas, with negligible, beneficial, long-term impacts. Non-wilderness backcountry areas would continue to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Some visitors might be unaware of the wilderness designation.	A very small additional amount of park land would be compatible and consistent with management as wilderness under the preferred alternative, which would protect ecosystem diversity, preserve park character, and accommodate sustainable growth. Primarily as a result of improving education about wilderness values, the preferred alternative would have negligible to minor, beneficial, long-term impacts on wilderness values and recreational opportunities. At the same time, potentially expanding the popular backcountry high Sierra tent-hotel concept would result in a negligible, adverse, long-term impact.
<i>Cultural Resources</i>		
<i>Historic Structures, Districts, and Cultural Landscapes</i>	The no-action alternative would result in minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts on historic structures, districts, and landscapes that would be preserved and adaptively used by the National Park Service for interpretive purposes or park operations. Impacts of removing facilities associated with the Kaweah no. 3 hydroelectric generation system would be fully analyzed in a plan prepared by the owner in consultation with the National Park Service and the state historic preservation officer; impacts would likely be moderate to major, adverse, and permanent because the integrity of functioning historic resources would be lost. Mitigation of the adverse effects would include documentation to HABS/HAER/HALS standards. (Hydroelectric facilities are a special permitted use that is not related to the parks' purpose and significance.) Mineral King permit cabins would be removed, resulting in moderate to major, adverse, permanent impacts on the cultural landscape district because individual contributing elements would be removed.	The preferred alternative would preserve cultural resources that portray the parks' diverse cultural themes, with minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term effects for these properties. Removing some historic structures would generally have moderate to major, adverse, permanent effects. Removing facilities associated with the Kaweah no. 3 hydroelectric generation system and returning the area to natural conditions, in accordance with a plan prepared by the owner in consultation with the National Park Service and the state historic preservation officer, would likely have moderate to major, adverse, permanent impacts. Mitigation of the adverse effects would include documentation to HABS/HAER/HALS standards. (Hydroelectric facilities are a special permitted use that is not related to the parks' purpose and significance.) Preserving and adaptively reusing resources contributing to the significance of the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District would have minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts.

<p>A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development</p>	<p>C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth</p>	<p>D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth</p>
<p><i>Backcountry / Wilderness</i></p>		
<p>Reducing use and development could create a park environment slightly more attuned to wilderness values. Similar to the no-action alternative, over 96% of the parks would be designated wilderness or would be compatible with management as wilderness. Minor, beneficial, long-term impacts on wilderness values and recreation would result from reduced park visitation, management of slightly over 300 additional acres as compatible with wilderness, and increased education.</p>	<p>Like the other alternatives, over 96% of the parks would be managed as designated wilderness or would be compatible with management as wilderness. Negligible, adverse, long-term impacts on wilderness characteristics would result from reducing the amount of compatible area by 32 acres. Traditional ranger programs are not likely to reach or inspire many backcountry users, resulting in negligible, adverse, long-term impacts on wilderness values and recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>Under alternative D 89.5% of the parks would be managed as designated wilderness or as compatible with wilderness. A slight decrease in areas compatible with wilderness would be consistent with guided growth and adaptation to changing users under this alternative, while retaining the basic park character. Increased visitor education on resource protection and stewardship, as well as teaching backcountry skills, could make visitors more aware of wilderness designation and values. However, as a result of more concentrated use by larger groups, the impact of this alternative on wilderness values would be negligible to moderate, adverse, and long term.</p>
<p><i>Cultural Resources</i></p>		
<p>Alternative A would result in minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts on historic structures, districts, and landscapes that would be preserved and adaptively used by the National Park Service for interpretive purposes or park operations. However, preserving only key cultural resources and removing others, or allowing them to deteriorate, would generally have moderate to major, adverse, long-term to permanent impacts. Impacts of removing facilities associated with the Kaweah no. 3 hydroelectric generation system and returning the area to natural conditions, in accordance with a plan prepared by the owner in consultation with the National Park Service and the state historic preservation officer, would likely be moderate to major, adverse, and permanent since the historical function and associated facilities would be lost. Mineral King permit cabins would be removed, resulting in a moderate to major, adverse, permanent impact on the cultural landscape district.</p>	<p>This alternative would provide for the preservation of more historic structures, districts, and landscapes than under any of the other alternatives, and impacts would be generally minor to moderate, beneficial, and long term. However, removing some historic structures and elements of historic landscapes, along with the deterioration of others, would have moderate to major, adverse, permanent impacts. Preserving facilities associated with the Kaweah no. 3 hydroelectric generation system would result in minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts. Acquiring permit cabins for public use would result in minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts on resources contributing to the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District.</p>	<p>Under alternative D preserving a full spectrum of cultural resources that portray diverse park themes would result in generally minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts. Removing facilities associated with the Kaweah no. 3 hydroelectric generation system and returning the area to natural conditions, in accordance with a plan prepared by the owner in consultation with the National Park Service and the state historic preservation officer, would likely have moderate to major, adverse, permanent impacts. Mitigation of the adverse effects would include documentation to HABS/HAER/HALS standards. (Hydroelectric facilities are a special permitted use that is not related to the parks' purpose and significance.) Loss of resources contributing to the significance of the potential Lodgepole historic district would result in moderate to major, adverse, permanent impacts. At the same time, alternative D would result in minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts to the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District and its contributing resources.</p>

Impact Topic	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Archeological Resources</i>	Potential impacts to archeological resources associated with the removal of historic structures would be adverse, minor to moderate in intensity, and permanent. Known archeological resources would be avoided to the greatest extent possible during the construction of picnic areas and the rehabilitation of parking areas and trails. If national register eligible or listed archeological resources could not be avoided, any adverse impacts would be minor to moderate in intensity and long term or permanent in duration. Long-term, potential impacts to archeological sites from visitor use would be adverse but negligible to minor in intensity. Potential impacts to archeological resources resulting from stock use and erosion would be negligible to minor in intensity, adverse, and long term or permanent.	Potential impacts to archeological resources associated with the removal of historic structures would be adverse, minor to moderate in intensity, and permanent. Known archeological resources would be avoided to the greatest extent possible during the undergrounding of utilities, the construction of picnic areas, the rehabilitation of parking areas and trails, and the upgrading of visitor facilities. If archeological resources eligible for or listed on the national register could not be avoided, any adverse impacts would be minor to moderate in intensity and long term or permanent in duration. Long-term, potential impacts to archeological sites from visitor use would be adverse but negligible to minor in intensity. Potential impacts to archeological resources from stock use and erosion could be negligible to minor in intensity, adverse, and long term or permanent.
<i>Ethnographic Resources and Landscapes</i>	The continuing impacts of visitors interrupting or distracting traditional American Indian practitioners would be minor, adverse, and long term. The extent to which knowledge was shared by American Indians with park staff about indigenous plants would lead to better resource management of certain plants and plant areas as ethnographic resources, resulting in minor, beneficial, long-term impacts.	The continuing impacts of visitors interrupting or distracting traditional American Indian practitioners would be minor, adverse, and long term, the same as the no-action alternative. If American Indians shared knowledge about indigenous plants with park staff, certain plants and plant areas could be managed as ethnographic resources, resulting in minor, beneficial, long-term impacts.
<i>Museum Collections and Archives</i>	Museum collections and archives would continue to be safe and secure. Within the life of this general management plan, however, part of the museum collections and archives would likely have to be moved to facilities inside the parks. Moving artifacts, specimens, and documents would have minor, adverse, short-term impacts. The impact of having additional curatorial and storage space that met museum standards would be moderate, beneficial, and long term.	The parks' museum collections and archives would be expanded and improved, meeting state-of-the-art museum standards and resulting in a moderate, beneficial, long-term impact.

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<p>Impacts would be similar to the no-action alternative; known archeological resources would be avoided to the greatest extent possible during the rehabilitation of parking areas and the removal of trails or campgrounds.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as the preferred alternative.</p>	<p>Impacts would be similar to the preferred alternative except construction would include three proposed visitor centers (Wye, Potwisha, and Cedar Grove), a bypass road around Grant Grove, and a gasoline station.</p>
<p>Impacts would be similar to the no-action alternative except removing the Potwisha campground would result in negligible, long-term impacts on access to ethnographic resources. A construction demolition staging area could result in some minor, adverse, short-term impacts by temporarily obstructing access to ethnographic resources.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as the no-action alternative.</p>	<p>Impacts would be similar to the no-action alternative except under alternative D there would be negligible, adverse, long-term impacts on access to ethnographic resources as a result of locating a visitor center in a previously disturbed area across the road from the Potwisha campground. The visitor center could cause minor, adverse, short-term impacts on access to ethnographic resources.</p>
<p>Impacts would be the same as the no-action alternative.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as the preferred alternative.</p>	<p>Impacts would be the same as the preferred alternative.</p>

Impact Topic	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
	<i>Transportation</i>	
<i>Transportation</i>	Traffic is projected to increase by 23% by 2010. There would be a negligible, adverse, peak-season impact on transportation carrying capacity in the Cedar Grove area. There would be negligible, year-round impacts at Wuksachi / Lodgepole / Wolverton (potential parking constraints should be compensated for by the Giant Forest transit system), Ash Mountain, and Mineral King. Impacts in the other activity areas examined (North Fork, Colony Mill Road, South Fork, and Dillonwood) would also be negligible. The no-action alternative would have a moderate adverse impact on transportation carrying capacity in the Grant Grove / Big Stump area during peak seasons, with severe parking capacity shortages at Grant Tree and Grant Grove village, and extensive summer congestion for inbound traffic at the Big Stump entrance station.	Traffic is projected to increase by 30% by 2010. The preferred alternative would have a negligible, peak-season impact on transportation carrying capacity in the Cedar Grove area and a minor, beneficial impact in the Grant Grove / Big Stump area in peak seasons as a result of relocating the entrance station and making circulation and parking improvements. The preferred alternative would have negligible, year-round impacts on carrying capacity in the Wuksachi / Lodgepole / Wolverton area, Ash Mountain, and Mineral King. In other activity areas (North Fork, Colony Mill Road, South Fork, and Dillonwood) impacts would be minor and beneficial.
<i>Visitor Experience</i>		
<i>Impacts on Park Character, Visitation, Educational Opportunities, Recreational Opportunities, Visitor Services</i>	Continuing current management practices and policies would maintain visitors' present experiences, with some change as facilities were replaced. Crowding would persist in some areas, trails would continue to deteriorate, and educational opportunities would remain inadequate. Transit would be limited to Giant Forest, and bicycling would continue to be mixed with traffic on park roads. At the same time, gradual improvements of existing facilities would continue to occur in all areas of the parks, as would the planned expansion of concession facilities and new facilities at Giant Forest. Despite minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts on visitors from gradually improving facilities and continued opportunities, traffic congestion in the most popular areas would generally result in moderate, adverse, long-term impacts.	The preferred alternative would enhance visitor recreational and educational opportunities to enjoy and understand the parks while retaining their basic character and accommodating some growth in visitation. Limited facility expansion and redesign would offer visitors more choice and convenience, while improving access to park resources. Taken together, the actions in the preferred alternative would have moderate to major, beneficial, long-term impacts on experiences for all visitors. The following actions would specifically contribute to the beneficial impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved diverse and comprehensive visitor orientation and educational programs, upgraded educational facilities, more ranger naturalist programs, focus on park values and learning outdoor skills, and expanded outreach • redesigned and more efficient visitor circulation systems, including transit • improved trail systems • more choices in lodging

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<i>Transportation</i>		
<p>Traffic is projected to decrease by 10% by 2010. Alternative A would have a negligible, year-round impact on transportation carrying capacity in the Cedar Grove area. Overall, alternative A would have a moderate beneficial impact on transportation carrying capacity in the Grant Grove / Big Stump area during peak seasons by improving the entrance station capacity and reducing overall use in the area. In the Wuksachi / Lodgepole / Wolverton area impacts on transportation carrying capacity in peak seasons would be negligible. Reducing overall use would result in minor, beneficial, year-round impacts on transportation carrying capacity in the Ash Mountain area, the Mineral King area, and other areas (North Fork / Colony Mill Road, South Fork, and Dillonwood) by reducing overall use.</p>	<p>Traffic is projected to increase by 30% by 2010, the same as the preferred alternative. Alternative C would have a negligible, year-round impact on transportation carrying capacity in the Cedar Grove area, the Wuksachi / Lodgepole / Wolverton area, and the Mineral King area because daily traffic capacity would not be changed. There would be a moderate, beneficial impact in the Grant Grove / Big Stump area in peak seasons as a result of improving the capacity of the entrance station and the Grant Grove parking areas and implementing a local transit service. Alternative C would have a minor, beneficial impact on transportation carrying capacity in the Ash Mountain area during peak seasons as a result of increasing parking and establishing an employee shuttle. Improving road access to North Fork and Dillonwood would result in minor, beneficial impacts.</p>	<p>Traffic is projected to increase by 48% by 2010. Alternative D would have a major, beneficial, impact on transportation carrying capacity in the Grant Grove / Big Stump area in peak seasons as a result of a bypass road (if allowed), additional parking capacity, transit parking near the Wye, and transit service to activity areas. In the Wuksachi / Lodgepole / Wolverton area alternative D would have a moderate beneficial impact on transportation carrying capacity in peak seasons as a result of the substantial increase in parking capacity for the transit system. Alternative D would have a negligible impact on transportation carrying capacity in the Cedar Grove area in peak seasons, as well as at North Fork, South Fork, and Dillonwood. Impacts in the Ash Mountain area would be minor, beneficial, and year-round since the new visitor center would increase parking capacity; transit service use would probably be relatively limited. The impact in the Mineral King area would be negligible and year-round.</p>
<i>Visitor Experience</i>		
<p>Since the focus of alternative A is to reduce use and development, the general impact on visitor experiences would be moderate, long term, and adverse. New facilities at Giant Forest would improve education, park experiences, and accessibility for physically disabled visitors. But on the whole, the parks would be less convenient and offer less choice, more restrictions, a loss of traditional activities, and fewer facilities to a limited number of visitors.</p>	<p>Compared to the no-action alternative, alternative C would provide improved visitor opportunities, characterized by moderate, beneficial impacts over the long term. The differences from the preferred alternative include fewer day use facilities, in-park educational programs focused on ranger naturalist programs, and the elimination of an outreach program. The actions in alternative C that would generally contribute to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts on visitor experiences include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new educational facilities at Giant Forest, Cedar Grove, and Ash Mountain • expanded ranger naturalist programs • a limited, voluntary shuttle system • improved campgrounds, frontcountry trails, and bicycling opportunities • more lodging 	<p>Alternative D would generally have moderate to major, beneficial, long-term impacts on visitor experiences. The expansion of facilities would offer choices and convenience, while improving access to park resources. There could be a minor adverse impact on basic activities as a result of accommodating new activities, but these activities would have to relate to park resources. The following actions would specifically contribute to the beneficial impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a redesigned and more efficient circulation system • a larger, improved trail system • a maximized transit system • more choices in lodging • a new visitor center and bike routes at Cedar Grove • a relocated visitor center and bypass at Grant Grove

Impact Topic	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facility improvements — a new visitor center and bike routes at Cedar Grove; improved visitor center, historic museum and redesigned circulation at Grant Grove; new facilities at Giant Forest; improved Ash Mountain visitor center, with added bicycling, hiking and camping opportunities in the foothills • enhanced ability to meet the needs of diverse visitor groups and increased accessibility to park resources by disabled visitors
<i>Private Land and Special Use Permits on Park Land</i>		
<i>Private Land, Special Use Permits, Boundary Adjustments</i>	The no-action alternative would generally result in moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts on public use and ownership of national park lands. These actions would allow slight increases in the public use of public lands. This impact would result from gradually removing private permit cabins from public land, acquiring ownership of limited amounts of private land within and outside the parks from willing sellers to increase resource protection in some areas and public access in others, and discontinuing hydroelectric utility use of public land.	The preferred alternative would result in major, beneficial, long-term impacts because public use of public land would be increased by removing non-public uses, acquiring and adaptively using special use permit cabins for public use, and acquiring a limited amount of private land in and around the parks to increase public access, while generally allowing private use of private land to continue.
<i>Park Management, Operations, and Facilities</i>		
<i>Staffing, Infrastructure, Visitor Facilities, and Services; Operations of Non-NPS Entities, Operations of Other Federal Agencies</i>	Gradually replacing facilities with more sustainable and efficient ones would result in moderate, beneficial impacts on all aspects of park operations over the long term. There would be negligible, beneficial impacts from the continued use of stock, helicopters, and snowmobiles for park operations. Impacts of insufficient park staffing would be minor and adverse over the short and long term, and inadequate housing would continue to be a problem. Generally impacts on park operations would be minor to moderate and adverse over the long term, primarily due to an aging infrastructure, inadequate housing, and insufficient staffing. Assistance from other groups (the natural	The preferred alternative would generally have moderate, beneficial impacts on park operations because of improved infrastructure and more sustainable facilities over the long term. Impacts from the continued use of stock, helicopters, and snowmobiles for park operations would be negligible and beneficial. Impacts on park operations from the assistance of other groups — the natural history association, volunteers, concessioners, commercial or incidental business permit holders, and partners — would be minor to major and beneficial. Adverse impacts of additional park and concession staffing on housing demand would be moderate, adverse, and long term.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new facilities at Giant Forest • a new foothills visitor center • added bicycling, hiking, and camping opportunities • improved and diversified educational programs (including more ranger naturalist programs, as well as a focus on park values and learning outdoor skills), and increased accessibility to park resources by disabled visitors

Private Land and Special Use Permits on Park Land

<p>Reducing use and development under alternative A would substantially increase public ownership of private land in the parks, and non-public uses of public land would be removed. Special use permit cabins would be removed from public land and the areas returned to more natural conditions. Under alternative A all private uses and private land inside the parks would eventually be acquired and the areas returned to natural conditions, resulting in moderate to major, beneficial, long-term impacts on public ownership and use of the parks. At the same time reduced opportunities for recreational use in the parks would result in moderate, adverse, long-term impacts.</p>	<p>Alternative C would result in major, adverse, long-term impacts because special use permits would continue to allow private use of public lands. At the same a limited amount of private land in and around the parks would be acquired to increase public access, a minor, beneficial impact. Private use of private land would be continued.</p>	<p>Alternative D would result in major, beneficial, long-term impacts because public use of public land would be increased by removing non-public uses, acquiring special use cabins and retaining some of them for public interpretive and educational use, and acquiring a limited amount of private land in and around the parks to increase public access. Private use of private land would be continued at Wilsonia and Silver City.</p>
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Park Management, Operations, and Facilities

<p>Alternative A would have major, adverse, long-term impacts on park operations as a result of reduced staff and eliminating the use of stock, helicopters, and snowmobiles for administrative purposes. Impacts on park operations from the assistance of other groups — the natural history association, volunteers, concessioners, commercial or incidental business permit holders, and partners — would be minor to major and beneficial. Generally there would be moderate to major, adverse, long-term impacts on other entities from either reduced use or the acquisition and removal of privately owned land or structures.</p>	<p>Overall, alternative C would generally have moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts on park operations as a result of expanded staffing and improved facilities. There would be negligible, beneficial impacts from the continued use of stock, helicopters, and snowmobiles for park operations. Impacts on park operations from the assistance of other groups — the natural history association, volunteers, concessioners, commercial or incidental business permit holders, and partners — would be minor to major and beneficial.</p>	<p>Alternative D would generally have moderate to major, beneficial impacts on park operations over the long term as a result of improved facilities and increased park staffing. There would be negligible, beneficial impacts from the continued use of stock, helicopters, and snowmobiles for park operations. Impacts on park operations from the assistance of other groups — the natural history association, volunteers, concessioners, commercial or incidental business permit holders, and partners — would be minor to major and beneficial. Impacts as a result of housing shortages would be moderate, adverse, and long term.</p>
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Impact Topic	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
	history association, volunteers, concessioners, commercial or incidental business permit holders, and partners) would have minor to major, beneficial impacts on park operations.	
<i>Socioeconomic Environment</i>		
<i>Regional and Local Economy</i>	Approved projects that would be funded under the no-action alternative would amount to about \$125 million. These projects would be phased over a number of years, so impacts on individual firms and employees could be moderate to major and beneficial over the short term, but impacts on the regional economy would be negligible. The current range and level of impacts on adjacent communities due to tourist spending would continue to be beneficial, providing income, employment, and business opportunities to the affected area's economy.	Approximately \$144 million would be spent over the life of the plan on various projects, an increase of only \$19 million compared to the no-action alternative. These expenditures could result in moderate to major, short-term, beneficial impacts on individual firms and employees because of increased business and profits, more employment opportunities, and higher income. Overall impacts on the regional economy, however, in terms of economic indicators (income, unemployment, poverty) would be negligible because of the economy's size and the fact that projects would be phased over the next 15 to 20 years. These projects would encourage more visitation to the parks, with beneficial effects on adjacent communities in terms of increased visitor expenditures for locally provided goods and services. Moving administrative functions and park employee housing outside the parks would result in the purchase or long-term lease of land and the construction of buildings in local gateway areas, with short-term, beneficial impacts on the local economy, mostly the construction sector.
<i>Mineral King Special Use Permits on Park Land</i>	Over the long term the expiration of special use permits in the Mineral King area would have a long-term, negligible, adverse impact on the parks' budget from the loss of permit revenue. Fresno and Tulare Counties would both experience negligible decreases in their respective property tax bases and revenue over the long term.	The expiration of approximately 60 special use permits in the Mineral King area would result in a long-term but negligible decrease in the parks' budget from the loss of permit revenue.
<i>Private Lands</i>	The acquisition of private lands within the parks on a willing-seller / willing-buyer basis would benefit the general public because additional resources within the parks would be protected and available for public access.	The acquisition of private land within the parks on a willing-selling / willing-buyer basis, as well as the expiration of special use permits, would have negligible, long-term impacts on the property tax bases and revenue of both Fresno and Tulare Counties.

A: Emphasize Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Reduce Use and Development	C: Preserve Traditional Character and Retain the Feel of Yesteryear; Guide Growth	D: Preserve Basic Character and Adapt to Changing User Groups; Guide Growth
<i>Socioeconomic Environment</i>		
<p>Based on expenditures of \$126.6 million for restoration and other projects (an increase of only \$1.6 million over the no-action alternative), impacts on individual firms and individuals would be moderate to major, short term, and beneficial. The projects would be accomplished in phases over the next 15 to 20 years. Impacts on the economies of gateway communities would most likely be minor to moderate and beneficial over the long term, but benefits to the regional economy would be negligible. Whether these effects were beneficial or adverse would depend on whether the public's demand for facilities and services removed from the parks were supplied by the private sector in adjacent areas.</p>	<p>An estimated \$159.5 million would be spent over the life of the plan to construct various projects, an increase of \$34.5 million compared to the no-action alternative. Benefits for individual firms and employees in the construction industry would be moderate to major, short term, and beneficial. Impacts on the regional economy would be negligible because of the size of the projects, which would be phased over the next 15 to 20 years.</p>	<p>Approximately \$250.6 million would be spent over the life of the plan on various projects, an increase of \$125.6 million compared to the no-action alternative. While impacts on individual firms and employees in the construction industry could be moderate to major, beneficial, and short term, impacts on the regional economy would be negligible and beneficial because of the size projects, which would be phased over the next 15 to 20 years. These projects would encourage greater visitation to the parks, with beneficial effects on adjacent communities, particularly for firms along the access corridors; impacts would be minor to moderate and beneficial over the long term.</p>
<p>The impacts of special use permits in the Mineral King area expiring would be the same as the no-action alternative except that more properties could be affected.</p>	<p>Approximately 60 special use permits in the Mineral King area would result in negligible income to the parks' budget.</p>	<p>The expiration of special use permits in the Mineral King area would have a long-term but negligible impact on the parks' budget from the loss of special use permit revenue.</p>
<p>The impact of acquiring private land within the parks on a willing-seller / willing-buyer basis would be the same as the no-action alternative except more owners could be affected. Both counties would experience negligible, long-term decreases in their respective property tax bases and revenue.</p>	<p>The acquisition of private lands within the parks on a willing-selling / willing-buyer basis, as well as the expiration of special use permits, would have negligible, long-term impacts on the property tax bases and revenue of both Fresno and Tulare Counties.</p>	<p>Local property taxes from special use permits and the acquisition of private lands within the parks on a willing-seller / willing-buyer basis would result in negligible, adverse, long-term impacts on property tax bases of both Fresno and Tulare Counties.</p>

Impact Topic	Continue Current Management (No Action) (formerly alternative B)	Preferred Alternative: Accommodate Sustainable Growth and Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Ecosystem Diversity, and Preserve Basic Character While Adapting to Changing User Groups
<i>Hydroelectric Power Generation</i>	Stopping hydroelectric power generation using facilities in Sequoia National Park when the permit expires in 2006 would result in minor, adverse effects on the electricity-generating capacity of Southern California Edison over the long term. The utility company would also incur short-term costs to remove facilities and return areas to natural conditions. Impacts on the park would include the annual loss of special use permit fees and no discount on electricity purchased from Southern California Edison, a minor, adverse, long-term impact.	Stopping hydroelectric power generation using facilities in Sequoia National Park would result in minor, adverse effects on the electricity-generating capacity of Southern California Edison over the long term. The utility company would also incur short-term costs to remove facilities and return areas to natural conditions. Impacts on the park would include the annual loss of special use permit fees and no discount on electricity purchased from Southern California Edison, a minor, adverse, long-term impact.
<i>Park Concessioners</i>	Current impacts relating to concessioners would continue, with negligible changes in short- or long-term effects on their business operations.	There would be some additional moderate, beneficial impacts over the long term for concessioners and other businesses within the parks due to the expansion of facilities and increased visitor use.
<i>Park Staffing and Budget</i>	The parks' staff levels and base budget would not change under the no-action alternative other than as a result of adjustments for inflation and rising labor and materials costs.	An increase in park staffing levels by 37.6 full-time employees and 41.7 seasonal employees, along with a substantial budget increase, would have a moderate, beneficial impact on the local gateway communities' economies because staff would likely purchase many goods and services locally. The impact on the regional economy, however, would be negligible, but beneficial.

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<p>Same as the no-action alternative.</p>	<p>Continuing operation of hydroelectric facilities in Sequoia National Park, subject to new authorization by Congress, would contribute limited power to the seasonal generating capacity of Southern California Edison, a minor, beneficial, long-term impact. This could be offset by higher maintenance costs for 100-year-old facilities. Economic impacts on the parks would be minor and beneficial over the long term because of permit fees and continued discounts on electricity purchases.</p>	<p>Same as the no-action alternative.</p>
<p>Some concessioners and their employees, and commercial stock users and their employees would experience long-term, moderate to major, adverse impacts with the loss of business and jobs. Over the long term, these firms and individuals would find other commercial and employment opportunities within the regional economy, resulting in negligible impacts. The public could look to the private sector within the gateway communities to provide services no longer offered in the parks.</p>	<p>Park concessioners would benefit over the long term as a result of a growth in visitor services. Effects would be negligible.</p>	<p>Impacts on park concessioners and other businesses would be beneficial over the long term as a result of providing additional visitor services.</p>
<p>Park staffing increases of 5.7 permanent employees and 6.3 seasonal employees, and a small increase in the parks' budget, would have negligible, beneficial, long-term impacts on the local and regional economies because of the small increase in jobs.</p>	<p>An increase in park staffing levels by 37.6 permanent employees and 41.7 seasonal employees, along with a substantial rise in the parks' budget, would have a minor, beneficial, long-term impact on the local economy but a negligible impact on the regional economy.</p>	<p>Park staffing levels would increase by 65.6 permanent employees and 72.8 seasonal employees, the most of any alternative. The parks' budget would have to increase the most of any alternative, but with minor, beneficial impacts on the local economy and negligible, beneficial impacts on the regional economy.</p>